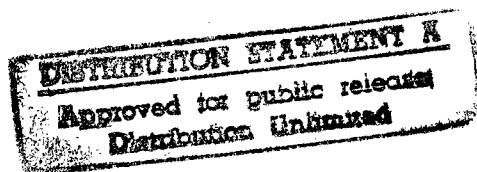


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14 March 1984

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INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

GCC SECRETARY INTERVIEWED ON COUNCIL'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Beirut AL-IQTISAD WA AL-A'MAL in Arabic No 56, Jan 84 pp 31-34

[Interview with 'Abdallah Bisharah, general secretary of the Gulf Cooperation Council, by Rashid Hasan: "'Abdallah Bisharah in a Comprehensive and Frank Dialogue Concerning the Experiment"; 1 December 1983, in London]

[Text] The first day of last December was the day of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) in London. It was a truly rare opportunity for a rich and frank discussion between the general secretary of the GCC, Mr 'Abdallah Bisharah, and a broad, diverse assortment of individuals, concerning the experiment of the GCC and the changes it has begun to produce for both the Gulf states themselves and the world. AL-IQTISAD WA AL-'AMAL, which attended the meeting and followed the discussions, has prepared the following record of Bisharah's introductory statement and the important discussions that followed it. Taken as a whole, they give the most up-to-date and complete picture of the philosophy and dimensions of the experiment, as expressed by its primary executive engine and most prominent engineer.

At the start of last December, and at the invitation of the British-Arab Chamber of Commerce, a meeting was held between the general secretary of the GCC, Mr 'Abdallah Bisharah, and a large group of British politicians and businessmen, Arab diplomats, and journalists. In addition, the main figures in the British-Arab Chamber of Commerce were present. The meeting lasted an entire day, and was held in two stages, with a break for lunch in the middle. It was devoted to listening to Mr 'Abdallah Bisharah in a conversation in which he dealt with the GCC experiment in all its dimensions. After a brief, concise introductory statement, he moved on to respond to questions and discuss matters with those present. In the course of his replies, he uncovered numerous developments and changes that are expected to occur in the GCC and its working methods.

In his introductory statement and answers, Bisharah was characterized by a distinctive presence. Without any effort, he seemed to be the master of the occasion throughout the day. In front of his broad audience, he demonstrated his talent as a skillful diplomat combining broad culture with rapid insight, and deep-rooted pragmatism with a profound understanding of the uniqueness of the situation in the midst of which he works and to which, of necessity, cannot be applied many of the concepts and academics, ready-made

formulations beloved by Westerners. More than once, Bisharah surprised his listeners by emphasizing this uniqueness and affirming that it imposes a special, novel course toward integration and political and economic development in the Gulf. In brief, he said it was an experiment that could not be expressed with common Western formulations and terminology, such as "confederation," the "principle of voting," etc. These terms spring from the experience of the West and the European Common Market. The experiment of the GCC is unique. It has its own special characteristics, with caution, wisdom, and the trial and error method being foremost among them. Thus, there is no room for rigid formulas. Rather, a cautious, pragmatic effort is being made that refers back for guidance in each stage to the results achieved in the previous stage. Each step is taken in light of the results of the last step. All this is done with respect for consensus and the equality of the participating countries, both large and small. Before a step is initiated or any change is made, the GCC waits for everyone to become convinced of it. Bisharah gave a strong example of just how frankly he can speak when he refused to be satisfied by blaming America and other countries for the strategic cooperation agreement with Israel. He affirmed that "we must direct intense blame, first and foremost, at ourselves as Arabs because we are divided and repeatedly waste our chances. We are unable to come up with a common concept and a common goal with regard to our destiny and our relationship to what is happening around us in the world.

Here are the most important things said by the general secretary of the GCC in his talk and in the subsequent discussion:

Bisharah began his statement by focusing on commerce as the most important means of achieving rapprochement among the peoples. However, commerce can only flourish in a climate of stability. There must be both regional stability and stability in international relations. He moved on from that to confirm that the primary goal behind the creation of the GCC was the idea that it would be a force working to insure stability and predictability in the region. He added that the Gulf had a long tradition of stability. However, he noted that the great development of the economy and the growth of the region's importance and position in the international and regional frameworks had made it necessary to achieve parallel progress on the level of coordination and gradual integration among the countries of the Gulf, thereby allowing them to act as a bloc on various economic and political levels. He said that a recent example of this development was the formation of the Gulf Investment Association, with capital of about \$2 billion. The association is able to engage in wide commercial borrowing and its basic goal is to finance projects in the Gulf.

Bisharah said: "The formation of the GCC will impose a fundamental change on the relationship of the states of the region to the world. From now on, cooperation with the Gulf must be cooperation with a bloc, not with individual states. For the first time, the Gulf has a central plan for industrial, agricultural, and communications affairs. Moreover, an open domestic market exists that is protected by a unified tariff wall. This market is the nucleus of a common market whose complete realization is anticipated for 1990."

He added: "The time has passed when a western businessman could come to one of the Gulf's hotels and wait for a telephone call that would invite him to sign a contract or close a deal. The GCC will create an important challenge for such businessmen, in view of the fact that it confronts them with an organized group with its own policies and priorities. It now makes decisions on an essentially technical basis, and after study. This means that western businessmen will need to take a more aggressive and competitive approach in their dealings with the region." He indicated that the ministers of industry in the Gulf would meet soon (they did so on 17 December) to study the extent of the progress achieved in the centralization of industrial policy.

Bisharah moved on to the political and regional dimension of the GCC. He said, "The council has really begun to fulfill an important function in the solidifying of regional stability. The Arab countries have begun to turn toward it, seeing in it an intermediate power and a positive factor that can reduce the sharpness of Arab disputes and conflicts. On the basis of a request from the concerned parties, the council has intervened in the dispute within the PLO. It has rendered direct assistance in the process of reaching a cease-fire between the two clashing factions. The council has also played a direct role in solving the dispute between the Sultanate of Oman and the Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen. It has pushed the two parties to relax their relations and exchange diplomatic representation. It has tried to find a peaceful way to resolve this war. For this purpose, the foreign ministers of Kuwait and the UAE were dispatched to both Tehran and Baghdad. All these examples show the positive function the council has fulfilled as an element of stability in a region threatened by instability and violence on more than one side."

Bisharah raised this question: "Why must we undertake tasks such as these?" He answered: "Because we are convinced that the security of the Gulf cannot be separated from that of the Arab region. Everything that affects the security of the region must influence our security. Consequently, we cannot neglect matters and become listless in the face of the increasingly dangerous problems around us. This is not so merely because they affect us, as they truly do, but because they affect others as well. Thus, what we in the GCC do is also of use to the world and the advanced countries, because the stability for which we are tirelessly working is also the climate in which the commerce and interests of the advanced countries can flourish. Indeed, in such a climate international stability in general can thrive."

Facing the World As a Bloc

Bisharah moved on to the economic and commercial dimension of the GCC. He said, "We live in a world of mutual dependence, and not only on the political level. Indeed, the essence of mutual dependence is commerce. Great progress in all areas has been made in our economy and our capacity to trade with the world. Thanks to the GCC, we can now interact with the world as a bloc. The greatest development in this regard is that, for the first time in our history, we shall be forced to adopt the ways of the markets of the West and the other international markets, in order to have our exports succeed there."

He added: "This change will impose on us a fundamental alteration of our local arrangements and laws. They will have to be made consistent with a collective approach to issues. Of course, we must pay a certain price for this development. Integration or coordination means that some countries must abandon projects they were intending to construct. Indeed, for the first time, the GCC countries are being asked, for the purposes of coordination, to abandon projects they were intending to construct. Indeed, for the first time, the GCC countries are being asked, for the purposes of coordination, to abandon a portion of their sovereign control over their affairs. They are also being asked to pay a financial price for this coordination. On the level of joint Gulf security, it has become clear to us that the price is far higher than was thought. However, when we ask for security to be a Gulf matter, this means that we must bear our responsibilities. We must cooperate. We accepted this at the second summit meeting of the leaders of the GCC. As a result, coordination has been achieved in our defense policies, armaments affairs, etc. For example, we now discuss the importing of weapons on a collective basis and as a single market."

He spoke about the GCC's relationship with the Yemenis, saying: "The prosperity of the GCC countries cannot be imagined without economic progress for the Yemenis. This is part of the philosophy of the GCC countries. We will soon begin to implement a program of economic assistance to the two countries. Once again, let me say that this will benefit you in the advanced countries too."

Foreign Policy and Non-Alignment

He moved on to the council's foreign policy. He affirmed that non-alignment in foreign policy "has produced responsibilities and forced us to exert great continuous efforts and send delegations here and there to overcome disputes. However, this is our fate, which was born of our position and convictions. We have tried very hard with regard to the Iran-Iraq War. However, it must be said that containing this tragic war is not our responsibility alone. Rather, it is also the responsibility of the West, especially since this war threatens stability in a region that is very vital with respect to the West and the world.

The Discussion

After Bisharah finished his lecture, he accepted questions from the audience. The following discussion took place:

[Question by J.L. Christy, IC Magazine] You indicated that integration of the Gulf common market is expected in 1990. But what about the constitutional formula for the union? Can one say it is a formula for a confederation?

The Idea of a Confederation is a Western Concept

[Answer] The idea of a confederation and other such ideas are Western concepts. We will not act on the basis of prior concepts or formulas. Our goal is unity, and we are striving to reach it in stages by experimenting

and evaluating each stage. On the economic level, we have set economic integration as our goal. By that we mean integration and coordination on the level of industry, agriculture and projects. We want an open market and free trade, with freedom of movement for persons, goods, and capital. In other words, our goal is a common market, achieved in stages. We have recently instituted the free transfer of capital. In March 1984, we will institute the free flow of skilled labor among the GCC countries.

The important thing is that we must not eat more than we can digest. With respect to politics, we have sometimes pointed to the concept of the confederation in order to alleviate the fears of the member states. From the start, voices have been raised saying that the GCC would lead to the loss by some of their inherited political or non-political privileges. Our response has been that we are not trying to fuse countries together. Rather, we are building a union along the lines of a confederation. Thus, each member state will be able to preserve its identity and concepts. We have succeeded in this, and the fears have receded. Despite that, some people say we are moving quickly. This is true. However, in any attempt to achieve political and economic integration, there must be a strong "initial impulse" that assures the thrust needed to continue with the operation and attain its goals. Any slowness or hesitation might turn into a relapse. It is clear that the GCC cannot bear such a relapse.

We will Not Reestablish Relations With Egypt

Bisharah added: A lot has been said about the GCC's intention to reestablish relations with Egypt, despite the resolutions of the Baghdad summit. However, this is impossible and will not occur because it would destroy our credibility. We can enter every Arab country because of this credibility. As for the matter of expanding the council's membership, I am not the one to decide this. However, as a general principle, the important thing is not whether a state is or is not a member. The important thing is for our point of view and our program to be Arab. We must always look at ourselves as part of the Arab world, which is bound by common interests and obligations.

[Question by Barzuzufski, BRITISH INDUSTRIALIST] In planning industrial and agricultural integration, is there a definite role for the Gulf Organization for Industrial Investments?

[Answer] The organization's role is to supply us with academic and field studies and assist in the process of coordination. Our relationship with it is good. It acts as our technical arm. In addition, there is an annual meeting of the ministers of industry. It regularly evaluates what has been accomplished in the area of industrial coordination. Any contradiction between projects is eliminated and industrialization plans are coordinated with the aim of achieving both the optimal division of labor and effectiveness. The time of competing projects and "white elephants" has passed. In the area of agriculture, the most important focus is on food security. We have actually laid the foundations of a common agricultural policy.

[Question by 'Ali Bayahjoub, MAGHREB-ARAB PRESS] Can the Gulf countries help the countries of North Africa that will be affected by the expansion of the European Common Market?

We Cannot Solve the Problems of the World

[Answer] An Arab proverb says that God helps those who know their limits. I do not believe it is just to suppose that we are able or intending to busy ourselves with the problems of the world. We in the Gulf have enough problems and concerns. Although we are prepared to offer whatever assistance we can, I do not believe that we shall welcome the addition of a new problem to those we have already. I hope my questioner will forgive me if I say that we have no information concerning this subject. No one has even asked me about it. Moreover, we cannot do much to help solve it.

[Question by F. Steel] Is there a supra-national authority in the council? How can its decisions be enforced with respect to the member states?

A Supra-national Authority

[Answer] Quite modestly, we work with the principle of consensus. Although the charter of the GCC refers to voting, this is more of an academic text than a realistic one. In terms of practical experience, we are more pragmatic. We do not approve a thing until the member states have agreed to it. If one of the countries is hesitant, we postpone the decision until the consensus is complete and continue the process of convincing it.

Is there a Supra-national authority? In a certain sense, yes, there is. At the joint meeting recently held by the ministers of foreign affairs and finance, the basic goal, as we had requested, was for them to tell us where we stood as a general secretariat. What are our powers? What can we do and what is unnecessary for us to do? To put it more clearly, what "taboos" are still outside the framework of unionist action? At that meeting, we were given the right to consider whether national regulations and laws will be changed and reformed, as must be done, so that they will conform to the union legislative framework. I was personally surprised by this development, for the general secretariat has been given the authority to investigate and report on the extent to which each country has made progress in changing its laws. You can call this authority supra-national. However, it is not in the constitution. Rather, it is an executive tool. We will go to the borders, for example, to see if the GCC's signs and billboards have been set up, or if they are applying the unified tariff yet or not. If they have not begun to apply it, we will ask them about the reason and then submit our report. In the Gulf, things are not complex, as they are in the European Common Market. Among us, six foreign ministers can meet together in a brotherly atmosphere and hold regular discussions. If one country is still not ready to make a decision, the matter is postponed on the basis of the idea that what is difficult today may become easier tomorrow or the day after. This is a wise and logical course of action. That is, it is the path of slow but firm progress. It has demonstrated its effectiveness.

The Iran-Iraq War

[Question by J. Farastiyah, University of (Exeter)] Will we see the Iran-Iraq War end soon?

[Answer] We must continue to look for a solution, by any means whatsoever. The GCC sent a delegation including the foreign ministers of Kuwait and the UAE to Tehran and Baghdad. When the two ministers came back with their report, it became clear to us that there were encouraging elements. However, the dilemma still exists. Perhaps the logic of the Iranian revolution is unavoidably inconsistent with that of the council. This is regrettable, but it is a fact that we accept. All of us hope that rationality will triumph in the end. We hope the desire for coexistence and a solution will win. We are working on this basis. One day, things will reach some kind of an end. But when? No one knows. However, things will definitely reach a conclusion.

[Question by Nazih Shuqayr] Does the British-Arab Chamber of Commerce intend to prepare a study of the exchanges between Britain and the GCC countries? What goods can be imported from the Gulf?

[Answer by Richard Beaumont] The British Ministry of Trade regularly issues figures on foreign trade that are organized according to goods and countries. They give a clear idea about what exchanges take place.

Dr Quwayz: Relations With Britain

[Dr 'Abdallah al-Quwayz] Commercial relations between the GCC countries and Britain are not all of the same kind. In front of me are the figures for the trade that took place between 1979 and 1982. They indicate that the balance was generally in favor of the GCC countries, with the exception of 1978 and 1982, when it was in favor of the United Kingdom. At any rate, we must face the facts as they are. Britain is a member of the European Common Market. This means that trade affairs are decided--it seems to me--in Brussels. We are trying to confront the matter in this context. Channels are naturally open. However, when one begins to hint at quota regulations and protectionist measures, the matter is no longer one of negotiations. Instead of emphasizing mutual dependence, we then see an attempt being made to impose a certain formula on this relationship. His Excellency the general secretary has affirmed that the GCC countries have passed the point of no return in their effort to build their economy according to regional standards. They will work together with various parties as a bloc and according to their interests.

[Question by Rich Kay, of the ALCAN Building Products Company] I would like to return to something his excellency the general secretary said. He mentioned that the GCC countries had adopted a collective approach with regard to purchasing contracts. I want to ask if there is information about the composition and role of the commission that will take responsibility for this work. How will certification and registration on the part of the exporters be verified?

[Answer by Dr Quwayz] We have undertaken some collective purchasing operations, such as the Pakistani rice operation carried out last year. We are currently looking into similar deals. However, aside from that, we still do not have any particular rules or plans for joint purchasing operations.

[Question by Richard Beaumont] Could I ask, Dr Quwayz, to whom requests to participate in particular deals or operations, such as the Pakistani rice deal, should be directed? Should we write to you, for example, or to his excellency the general secretary? This is a practical point we want to clear up.

[Answer Dr Quwayz] In reality, we concede the limits of our ability in this area. That is, we are trying not to get involved in the daily processing of commerce. We undertook last year's rice deal on the basis of a request from the GCC, just as we have undertaken similar operations on other occasions. However, we are trying to stay out of these matters and set up a bureaucratic apparatus for them.

[Answer by Bisharah] I want to explain that by saying that we do not want to exhaust ourselves by setting up permanent commissions to deal with the subject of joint purchases. Perhaps we will set up a temporary committee, as happened in the Pakistani rice deal, when the ministers accepted the deal in principle 2 years ago. Two ministers were delegated to cooperate with the general secretariat in the negotiations with Pakistan. However, after the deal was concluded, the committee was dissolved. Of course, if the need arises once again, it is possible that a temporary committee will be formed. I cannot give you an address to which you could write. However, I can say that we are able to help in the matter.

The American-Israeli Agreement

[Question] by Suzanna Tarbush of the magazine MIDDLE EAST] I would like to ask Mr Bisharah a question about the future of relations between the GCC and the United States, especially after the conclusion of the strategic cooperation agreement between the United States and Israel. Furthermore, what about the continuation of the trade balance surplus in favor of the United States?

[Answer] This is a large topic. However, any strengthening of the ties of alliance between America and Israel must be ascribed to a failure on the part of the Arabs. This failure consists of the absence of Arab solidarity and a minimum level of mutual understanding. Moreover, instead of standing together, we play around by engaging in internecine fighting and killing. These are the real reasons that have made such an alliance possible. Many times we have had the opportunity to force Israel into a corner, but we have always let it pass by because of our disputes. Of course, I am not happy with this agreement. No Arab can like it. However, before one blames others for what they do, one must look at one's own failure and errors.

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CSO: 4404/302

PAPER ON YEAR SINCE BENDJEDID-HASSAN MEETING

PM051037 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 26 Feb 84 p 1

["E.M." editorial: "One Year"]

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid met with King Hassan II 1 year ago. The meeting was full of promise and aroused hopes: the promise of a resotration of stability and peace to the region and the hope of the advent of a new era of harmony and concord for all its peoples. Moreover, these essential objectives have always guided the approach of Algeria, which has a deep awareness of the historical ties which unite our peoples and which a common destiny strengthens.

The meeting between President Chadli Bendjedid and Kin Hassan II of Morocco again brought the Great Arab Maghreb face to face with a crucial phase in its destiny. Indeed, there was a great and promising opportunity to overcome the problems by joint will and combined efforts, to establish a sound basis for working toward cooperation and peace, in keeping with the aspiration of all and worthy of the great ideal of building the Arab Maghreb.

Algeria had the firm intention and sincere readiness to act on all the possibilities of that meeting. President Chadli Bendjedid's proposals bear witness to that. They are lucid and practical. They are lucid in that they stem from a correct perception of the realities of the region and of all the facts of the situation which prevails in it. They are practical in that they point to measures and undertakings directed toward action. Thus everything pointed to the development of a new dynamism and a new surge toward solving the West Saharin problem.

The resolution of the 19th OAU summit strengthened that dynamism and that surge and thus opened up great prospects for a peace settlement. With the parties to the conflict identified and the means of negotiation decided, the framework for a reconciliation between the fraternal Moroccan and West Saharan peoples was specified. A real African consensus paved the way for a just settlement.

The 26 February meeting and the crucial resolution adopted by the OAU summit made a great contribution to creating in the course of 1983 the necessary environment and the right conditions for solving the West Sahara question.

Nonetheless, the impetus produced by the meeting was not sustained to realize all the hopes it had aroused, to the great detriment of all the peoples of the region. Similarly the implementation of the OAU resolution--also adopted by the United Nations--is still being hindered, thus undermining the African consensus and the OAU's work for peace. The responsibility for this situation is known and established. Has not the current OAU chairman publicly expressed the view that Morocco's refusal to sit down at the negotiating table is the only cause of it?

The SDAR, for its part, has clearly shown by its constant readiness for dialogue that it has a high sense of duty toward the peoples of the region, toward African, and beyond that toward the international community. Its sovereign decision to abstain from taking part in the forthcoming council of ministers meeting in Addis Ababa provides additional evidence of that. It is to be hoped that the SDAR's farsighted and courageous attitude will finally produce an appropriate response and that reason will triumph in the region. It is to be hoped that negotiation is given its due again, and that the necessary dialogue replaces force and faits accomplis.

There can be no just and viable solution in the West Sahara affair without the negotiations which the OAU is urging the two parties to the conflict to open. That is the price for restoring peace. It is therefore important for all to pay that price with courage and responsibility. Indeed, while it is in nobody's interest for the conflict to continue or grow worse, since it would be likely to develop in an uncontrollable way, it is, however, in everybody's interest for every effort to be made to end it quickly--a demand shared by all our peoples and an essential condition for satisfying their aspirations to unity and well-being.

CSO: 4500/49

ALGERIA

BRIEFS

COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH USSR--The work of the 9th session of the mixed Algerian-Soviet cooperation commission ended at noon at the Ministry of Trade with the signing of two documents; the signing of minutes by the trade minister cochairman of the commission on the Algerian side and by Mr Yakov, chairman of the State Committee for Soviet Foreign Economic Relations, on the Soviet side and the signing of a protocol of financial agreement on the creation of a thermal power station in Jijel. [Text] [LD260005 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 25 Feb 84]

USSR JUDICIAL ACCORD--Moscow, 9/2/84 (APS)--A ceremony was organized on Tuesday in Moscow to proceed to the exchange of instruments of ratification of the convention on judicial and juridicial cooperation between Algeria and USSR, signed in Algiers on 23 February 1982. The official proceedings were signed by the Algerian ambassador to Moscow, Mr Messaoud ait Chaalal and the Soviet deputy foreign minister, Mr Nikita Ryjov, in the presence of Algerian and Soviet high-ranked officials. [Text] [LD011104 Algiers APS in English 1227 GMT 29 Feb 84]

CSO: 4500/49

MAURITANIA

FRANCE ANNOUNCES INCREASED AID TO MAURITANIA

PM020911 Paris LE MONDE in French 29 Feb 84 p.6

["P.B." report: "France Doubles Aid to Mauritania"]

[Text] "We are returning home very grateful and very satisfied," Mauritanian Foreign Minister Ahmed Ould Minnih stated on Friday, 24 February at the end of the fifth joint grand commission meeting in Paris. He had just signed a series of agreements with Cooperation and Development Minister Christian Nucci under the terms of which France's total aid will exceed FR300 million this year as against FR130 million last year.

The state's share is divided as follows: FR100 million for technical aid (300 aid workers of which 105 are technicians), FR35 million in the form of gifts of which half has already been made available, around FR20 million for food aid, and FR10 million for various projects. The central fund for economic cooperation, for its part, is providing finance for several programs to the amount of FR150 million.

As Mr Nucci stressed when the meeting started on Thursday, France wanted to "show its solidarity in a practical way" following the "unrelenting drought" which is striking Mauritania by providing it with special emergency aid. This cooperation should enable it to improve management which leaves something to be desired, placing the emphasis on training and technical assistance in several priority spheres, especially rural development, and fishing which represents Mauritania's future. Since September France has contributed almost FR6 million to maritime surveillance. Similarly it is taking part in the development of the mining sector and, after Italy, it is the second biggest buyer of Mauritanian iron, which has experienced a slump (7.8 million tons in 1983 instead of the planned 10.4 tons) and a 10-percent drop in prices since January.

The projects financed by the central fund for economic cooperation relate in particular to telecommunications (FR96 million over 2 years), the equipping of Nouakchott airport to enable it to meet international standards and to receive large transport aircraft (around FR80 million), and a contribution to the reorganization of the SONELEC Electricity Company, and to the development of alternative energy sources (FR89 million).

CSO: 4500/49

REPORT ON TUNISIAN TRADE BALANCE

Tunis DIALOGUE in French No 486, 30 Jan 84 pp 34-5

[Text] As we approached the end of 1983, the trade balance reflected a further noticeable change, with the trade deficit falling within the limits forecast in the economic budget. Certainly, that is explained by the role of exports of crude oil and phosphate fertilizer but also by sustained action taken to slow down the flow of imports.

For the first 10 months of 1983 the trade balance recorded a noticeable improvement, both in terms of imports as well as exports. Up to the end of October the deficit in the trade balance was in the order of 687.7 million dinars. This placed it within the limits forecast in the economic budget. It was even a little bit smaller than the deficit forecast, which was for 800 million dinars for all of 1983.

According to the preliminary statistics for the first 10 months of 1983, it appears that imports amounted to 1,674,900,000 dinars, while exports reached a level of 987.2 million dinars, creating a trade deficit of 687.7 million dinars. This showed that exports covered 58.9 percent of imports.

Regarding exports, it should be noted that they did not develop as predicted for the first few months of the year. In this context exports recorded a slight increase of about 2.9 percent, whereas in the budget forecasts the increase was estimated at 11.5 percent.

However, it should be noted that our exports increased less and less as we approached the end of the year. For example, the overall value of exports for the month of October was 105.7 million dinars, or an increase of 5.7 million dinars over the month of September and 7.9 million dinars more than the average for the first 9 months of the year.

The strength of our exports may be explained first by the contribution made by crude oil, shipments of which reached 418,000 tons in October, compared to 346,000 tons in September and 181,000 tons in August. Moreover, we note that other exports, such as phosphoric acid and fertilizers, also reflected remarkable increases, in terms of quality and price.

Other sectors, such as textiles, leather, and shoes, also showed the same rising trend toward the end of the year, with a growth equivalent to 100 percent.

In other sectors, such as food products, there was a decline in exports of 23.3 percent. That is explained by a slump in the sales of Tunisian olive oil.

Principal Exports for the First 10 Months of 1983 (in Thousands of Dinars)

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Petroleum and Petroleum Products | 447,200 |
| Textiles | 194,333 |
| Olive Oil | 21,783 |
| Phosphates and Other Minerals | 21,184 |
| Fertilizer | 89,172 |
| Organic, Chemical Products | 72,781 |
| Fruits and Citrus Fruits | 12,962 |
| Skins and Leather | 18,073 |
| Fish | 17,439 |
| Electrical Machinery and Equipment | 22,664 |

Regarding the efforts made to slow down the flow of imports, these began to bring results during the last few months of the year. In October imports were valued at 157.4 million dinars, compared to 180 million dinars in September and an average of 168.6 million dinars during the first 9 months of the year. Thus, the October level of imports was 22.6 million dinars below the September level and 11.2 million dinars below the average for the first 9 months.

Principal Imports for the First 10 Months of 1983 (in Thousands of Dinars)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Milk, Butter, and Cheese | 18,664 |
| Coffee, Tea, Spices | 18,122 |
| Grain | 87,762 |
| Sugar | 27,973 |
| Cement | 8,572 |
| Petroleum and Petroleum Products | 197,426 |
| Pharmaceutical Products | 31,317 |
| Plastic Materials and Products | 37,116 |
| Wood and Wood Products | 32,751 |
| Textiles | 182,035 |
| Machinery and Mechanical Equipment | 255,791 |
| Electrical Machinery and Appliances | 103,635 |
| Vehicles, Cycles, and Tractors | 125,785 |
| Optical and Scientific Equipment | 27,919 |

The sectors of food for human consumption and equipment made up the largest proportion of imports, while raw and semi-processed materials showed a decline in the order of 4.3 million dinars, or 0.9 percent of the overall total.

Regarding food for human consumption, the increase in imports was valued at 79.7 million dinars, which amounts to 53.6 percent more than total food imports during the first 10 months of 1982. Food products as a percentage of total imports went up from 9.6 to 13.6 percent. Imports of grain reflected the largest increase.

During October 1983 the increase amounted to 17.5 million dinars, while imports of soybean oil, meat, and sugar increased by 5.7, 5.5, and 7.7 million dinars, respectively.

Regarding machinery and equipment, there was a decrease of 6.7 million dinars due to the fact that most of the equipment on order had been imported during the first few months of 1983.

Finally, we note that the percentage of export cover of imports was characterized by a certain instability during the first few months of 1983 and then began to stabilize at around 60 percent.

5170

CSO: 4519/103

INCREASE IN HARD CURRENCY FROM TOURISM

Tunis DIALOGUE in French No 484, 16 Jan 84 pp 32, 33

[Article by M.B.M.: "Increased Foreign Currency Receipts"]

[Text] Despite difficult world economic conditions, tourism in Tunisia improved considerably, especially at the height of the season.

Tourism, a priority sector under the Sixth Plan because of its contribution in bringing in foreign currencies and creating jobs and because of its impact on other economic sectors, is still suffering the indirect consequences of the world economic crisis. However, if we analyze the latest figures published by the National Tunisian Tourism Office (ONTT) we note that arrivals of non-residents and, to a lesser extent, the number of bed-nights increased appreciably at the height of the season. In addition, foreign currency receipts in this sector increased, as is shown by the recent document on the 1984 Economic Budget prepared by the Ministry of Plan.

One reason for this improvement is the increased amounts spent by tourists per bed-night, and the fact that tourists coming to Tunisia as a whole are relatively big spenders.

Appreciable Increase in Number of Tourists

As far as the number of tourists is concerned, the latest ONTT information bulletin shows a drop of no more than 1 percent during the first 10 months of 1983 compared with the same period during 1982; however, by the end of June 1983, the drop had reached 17 percent. This does reveal an appreciable increase in non-resident entries, an increase that affected in particular the Algerian, Spanish and Libyan markets which, during the first 10 months of 1982-1983, increased respectively by 8 percent (8.14 percent in October 1983), 29 percent and 94 percent. We should add that the flow of tourists observed at the height of the season and last October appears to be a sign of recovery for 1984, although uncertainty still prevails as far as tourism is concerned, due to the pressure exerted by the rising dollar on the economies of the main countries from which tourists come.

Thus, at the end of the first 10 months of the current year, close to 1.3 million tourists came to Tunisia, including 827,700 from Europe, 163,300 from Algeria, 147,000 from Libya and 43,300 from the Middle East. Compared with the same period

Table 1. Arrivals of Non-Residents, By Nationality

| Nationality | First 10 Months | | | Percent Difference 1983/1982 |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|------------------------------------|
| | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 | |
| Europeans, total | 1,041,637 | 926,053 | 827,741 | -10.6 |
| incl. - French | 346,271 | 333,569 | 316,509 | - 5.2 |
| - German | 298,560 | 257,409 | 212,670 | -17.4 |
| - English | 135,332 | 89,707 | 71 672 | -20.1 |
| - Italian | 62,533 | 56,425 | 56,293 | - 0.2 |
| - Swiss | 37,658 | 43,056 | 35,658 | -17.2 |
| Algerian | 767,094 | 151,190 | 163,332 | + 8.0 |
| Libyan | 11,288 | 75,638 | 146,919 | +94.2 |
| Middle East | 38,459 | 43,746 | 43,312 | - 1.0 |
| Other | 42,005 | 44,610 | 47,481 | + 6.4 |
| Grand total | 1,900,483 | 1,241,237 | 1,228,785 | - 1.0 |

during 1982, these figures show an overall decline of 1 percent and declines of 10.6 and 1 percent respectively for tourists from Europe and the Middle East, whereas the number of Algerian and Libyan tourists increased respectively by 8 and 94 percent during the same period.

This table shows, in particular, that the number of Algerian tourists reached a record high in 1981 (767,094), dropped to 151,190 in 1982 and rose again to 163,332 in 1983, whereas the number of Libyan tourists increased from 11,288 in 1981 to 75,638 in 1982 and reached 146,919 during the first 10 months of 1983.

Increased Number of Bed-Nights for the Tunis-Zaghuan Area

As far as bed-nights are concerned, they reached a total of 10.3 million during the first 10 months of 1983, a 7.2 percent regression over the same period in 1982 (11.1 million bed-nights). The decline affected in particular tourists from England (-21.7 percent), Germany (-18.5 percent), Scandinavia (-15 percent), France (-2.4 percent) and other European countries.

Regionally, the drop in the number of bed-nights was felt in Jerba-Zarzis (-12.7 percent), Nabeul-Hammamet (-11.6 percent), Skanes-Monastir (-5.9 percent) and Sousse (-6.9 percent). All other touristic regions also showed a decline except Tunis-Zaghuan, which showed a 14 percent increase during the period considered. Table II gives more details, especially with respect to the number of new beds and the occupancy rate in Tunisia's touristic regions.

The table shows in particular an appreciable decline in the occupancy rate, from 55.2 percent during the first 10 months of 1982 to 49.8 percent during the same period in 1983. The decline affected all touristic areas and especially the Sousse-Kairouan (50.3 compared with 58.5) and Jerba-Zarsis areas (48.9 compared with 56.2).

Table 2. Touristic Areas: Occupancy Rates

| Areas | New Beds | Total Bed-Nights During the First Months | | Percent Difference | Occupancy Rate | |
|-----------------|-------------|---|------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------|
| | 1983 | 1982 | 1983 | | 1982 | 1983 |
| Tunis-Zaghouan | 7,520 | 989,276 | 1,128,101 | +14.0 | 50.0 | 49.3 |
| Hammamet-Nabeul | 18,837 | 3,326,244 | 2,937,257 | -11.6 | 55.2 | 51.3 |
| Sousse-Kairouan | 16,361 | 2,677,500 | 2,500,632 | - 6.6 | 58.5 | 50.3 |
| Skanes-Monastir | 8,533 | 1,491,514 | 1,403,244 | - 5.9 | 57.5 | 54.1 |
| Jerba-Zarzis | 12,314 | 2,097,965 | 1,830,075 | -12.7 | 56.2 | 48.9 |
| Gafsa-Tozeur | 2,350 | 283,543 | 271,062 | - 4.4 | 42.9 | 37.9 |
| Bizerte-Tabarka | 2,335 | 253,709 | 249,814 | - 1.5 | 43.7 | 35.2 |
| Together | 68,250 | 11,119,751 | 10,320,185 | - 7.2 | 55.2 | 49.8 |

According to the 1984 budget, the occupancy rate of the accommodation capacity will remain the same as in 1983 (an estimated 38.7 percent) and foreign currency receipts should total close to 395 million dinars, compared with an estimated 350 million in 1983 and 340.5 million in 1982. However, if these objectives are to be reached, there must be a new increase of close to 6,500 beds in 1984, bringing the overall accommodation capacity to close to 91,000 beds.

On the other hand, considering the beneficial effects of this sector on the country's economy, the government decided to increase by 50 percent in 1984 the credits allocated to advertising and tourism promotion.

We should also mention that tourism in Tunisia ranks right after oil as far as foreign currency receipts are concerned. It represents 4 percent of the gross national product and a similar percentage of investments. In addition, it provides directly 35,000 jobs and nearly three times as many indirectly, i.e. a total of 120,000 jobs in the production and service sectors.

9294

CSO: 4519/102

INCREASE IN HARD CURRENCY ASSETS REPORTED

Tunis DIALOGUE in French No 486, 30 Jan 84 pp 36-37

[Text] The Central Bank of Tunisia (BCT) has recently published Bulletin No 67 of STATISTIQUES FINANCIERES for December 1983. The data published in this issue cover the month of October 1983. An analysis of this document has brought out the following:

--In terms of money supply and more particularly in terms of bank credit, there was a steady tightening of funds available in the banks during the first 10 months of 1983, due to the impact of the withdrawal of paper money and coins by the public. This followed a similar tendency noted during 1982.

The volume of credit rose to 516.2 million dinars by the end of October, compared to 440 million dinars at the end of December 1982, an increase of 17.3 percent which was equivalent to 76.2 million dinars. Meanwhile, liquid funds (including sight deposits held by companies and private individuals) declined at the beginning of 1983 and did not increase until the second half of the year. Moreover, during the same period of time liquid funds only increased by 2 percent, going up from 939.4 million dinars in December 1982 to 958.5 million dinars at the end of October 1983.

We might also add that the tightening of bank credit was amplified by the decline in holdings of foreign exchange, which went down from 237.5 million dinars in December 1982 to 121.2 million dinars at the end of July 1983. However, a noticeable improvement began after the end of August 1983, when the level of foreign exchange holdings reached 266.9 million dinars, or an increase of 120 percent, the equivalent of 145.7 million dinars, compared to the preceding month. Evidently, this increase in foreign exchange holdings continued in the following months, rising to 285.2 million dinars in September and 293.7 million dinars in October 1983.

The reason for this development may be found in substantial receipts of foreign exchange from petroleum exports, following the recovery of such exports during the second half of 1983. Increased income from tourist expenditures also contributed to this result.

Tunisian Money Supply, December 1981 to October 1983 (in Thousands of Dinars)

| | December 1982 | December 1982 | January 1983 | July 1983 | August 1983 | September 1983 | October 1983 |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Money Supply: | 1,114.9 | 1,379.4 | 1,270.5 | 1,404.3 | 1,478.0 | 1,467.7 | 1,474.7 |
| Including | | | | | | | |
| Fiduciary Funds* | 342.8 | 440.0 | 436.8 | 510.1 | 524.0 | 539.8 | 516.2 |
| Paper Money** | 772.1 | 939.4 | 833.7 | 894.1 | 954.1 | 927.9 | 958.5 |
| Deposits: | 610.2 | 672.0 | 684.5 | 712.3 | 703.5 | 722.2 | 736.9 |
| Term Deposits | 331.0 | 309.9 | 305.1 | 288.6 | 288.2 | 289.4 | 284.7 |
| Special Savings Accounts | 238.7 | 309.8 | 321.3 | 354.8 | 361.1 | 370.9 | 378.3 |
| Foreign Exchange Holdings | 234.9 | 237.5 | 220.5 | 121.2 | 266.9 | 285.2 | 293.7 |
| Loans Including: | 1,649.4 | 2,035.0 | 2,002.3 | 2,224.4 | 2,246.5 | 2,244.2 | 2,275.7 |
| Short Term | 1,148.2 | 1,418.5 | 1,380.6 | 1,547.8 | 1,568.5 | 1,563.2 | 1,601.0 |
| Medium Term | 340.1 | 440.8 | 437.8 | 484.8 | 486.8 | 488.2 | 482.2 |
| Long Term | 161.1 | 175.6 | 183.8 | 191.7 | 191.1 | 192.8 | 192.4 |

Source: Central Bank of Tunisia

* [Monnaie Fiduciaire]

** [Monnaie Scripturale]

Concerning deposits [quasi-monnaie], the rate of growth during 1983 was notable, compared to 1982. Deposit volume totaled 736.9 million dinars in October 1983, or an increase of about 10 percent, compared to December 1982, whereas one year earlier it had only increased by 4.5 percent. The rate of increase in deposits was a reflection in particular of the increased level of deposits in special savings accounts, whose volume increased by more than 22 percent during the first 10 months of 1983, reaching a figure of 378.3 million dinars.

Regarding term deposits, they have almost continuously tended to decline. This tendency continued during the first 10 months of 1983, with total deposits remaining below the level reached in December 1982, or 309.9 million dinars.

Among other causes, this development may be explained by declining deposits by social insurance organizations, following increases in expenditures from grants and investments in the program for constructing housing and polyclinics, as well as a decrease in deposits made by private companies.

Regarding loans made by the monetary system to the economy, at the end of the first 10 months of 1983 these amounted to 2,275.7 million dinars, of which 553.4

million dinars were extended by the Central Bank of Tunisia, and 1,722 million dinars in loans were made by the deposit banks. Compared to December 1982, these loans reflected an increase in the order of 12 percent, as against an increase of 17.8 percent by comparison with December 1981.

The decline in the rate of growth of these loans results from loans made by the Central Bank of Tunisia (up 48.6 percent, compared to 83.5 percent the previous year) and by deposit banks (up 3.6 percent, compared to 5.8 percent the previous year). Amounting to a little more than 70 percent of all loans made to the economy, short term loans by the end of October 1983 amounted to 1,601 million dinars, an increase of 12.9 percent, compared to the December 1982 level. Medium term loans, which account for a little more than 21 percent of all loans made to the economy, had reached 482 million dinars by the end of October 1983, an increase of 9.4 percent, compared to their December 1982 level. Regarding long term loans, they increased at the same rate as medium term loans, reaching 192.4 million dinars by the end of October 1983. This represents 8.4 percent of all loans made by the monetary system to the economy.

5170

CSO: 4519/103

DECLINING ALFA PRODUCTION DUE TO HARVESTING PROBLEMS

Tunis DIALOGUE in French No 487, 6 Feb 84 p 35

[Article: "The 1983-1984 Alfa Campaign: Harvesting Problems"]

[Text] Alfa, the raw material with which paper is made in Tunisia, covers huge areas, especially in the Kasserine, Sidi Bouzid and Gafsa governorates. Recent years have been lean for this industrial plant, due to adverse climate conditions (drought, etc.) and because of the disinterest of the rural population which used to harvest alfa for industrial purposes.

Actually, alfa pickers tend to go to the Sfax and Jerid areas to pick olives and dates, and most of them go to large towns to find higher incomes. This is the rural exodus, the cause of the ills that plague towns. To remedy the situation, the authorities have taken measures to slow down this dangerous trend through the creation of the Central Tunisian Office agricultural development programs, the Rural Development Programs (PDRs) and the Productive Family Programs. However, although these programs have succeeded to a certain extent in preventing the rural exodus, they have increasingly turned rural populations away from alfa harvesting, an occupation which used to be a source of appreciable income, especially after the construction of the Kasserine cellulose plant.

As a result, this industry is now facing a serious crisis, especially as far as labor is concerned, and the plant of the National Alfa Cellulose and Paper Company (SNCPA) may experience serious problems because of the alfa shortage. Besides, in recent years the SNCPA has made huge efforts with respect to alfa harvesting and has carried out awareness campaigns to prevent an interruption of supplies. In this respect, SNCPA statistics show that, during the 1970's, 8,000 to 10,000 families used to harvest alfa, whereas the most optimistic statistics now count on no more than about 3,000 families.

The areas where alfa grows are also threatened as, where pastures are lacking, they are used as a natural range for innumerable herds of cattle and sheep, and also because of illegal land reclamation by farmers owning vast tracts of land, not to mention the impact of adverse climate conditions (succession of drought years).

All this makes the task of some harvesters more difficult, as they must cover greater distances to harvest the necessary quantities of alfa. As a result, their work has become very hard and does not pay much any more, so that many give up alfa harvesting for other activities.

Table 1. Alfa Production and Prices (Thousand Tons and Dinars)

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Production</u> | <u>Price</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>Production</u> | <u>Price</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 1972 | 75.0 | 6.5 | 1979 | 95.0 | 13.5 |
| 1973 | 63.5 | 6.5 | 1980 | 100.0 | 13.5 |
| 1974 | 70.2 | 6.5 | 1981 | 71.0 | 15.0 |
| 1975 | 65.0 | 8.5 | 1982 | 24.4 | 15.0 |
| 1976 | 60.0 | 8.5 | 1983 | 59.0 | 15.0 |
| 1977 | 51.0 | 10.5 | 1984 | | 20.5 |
| 1978 | 93.0 | 10.5 | | | |

To face this situation and to encourage alfa harvesters to keep working in this sector, both the price of alfa and the minimum guaranteed agricultural wage (at present 2.7 dinars per workday) must be adjusted.

However, a higher alfa price (it is now 20.5 dinars per ton) would present a financial problem to the SNCPA and would increase the cost of the alfa pulp which the company claims it is already selling at a loss. Besides, the minimum price that might interest alfa harvesters would be around 0.029 dinar per kg, but buying alfa at that price would make the cost of the pulp prohibitive. In other words, to solve this thorny problem and continue alfa pulp production, the price of paper must be increased, all the more so as paper is wasted to an extent that cannot be ignored.

As far as production is concerned, the 1983-1984 harvesting campaign started early in November, i.e. two months late. The delay was essentially due to the drought which is affecting Central Tunisia and the harvesting campaign could not start until after the early October rains.

Besides, prior to that, the alfa was so dry that it could not be harvested at all. As for the previous harvesting campaign, it had yielded an increased production compared with the poor harvest of the 1981-1982 campaign (24,400 tons), but the raw alfa tonnage received by the SNCPA hardly reached 59,000 tons although a production of 80,000 tons had been expected initially.

9294

CSO: 4519/102

BRIEFS

STEG-SONELGAZ COMPLEMENTARITY--The Tunisian Electric and Gas Company (STEG) recently signed an agreement with the Algerian SONELGAZ [National Electricity and Gas Company] to strengthen their complementarity in various sectors. Under this agreement, STEG on the one hand and SONELGAZ on the other hand may standardize their equipment and exchange electric power by reinforcing the interconnections of the Algerian and Tunisian high-voltage networks. The agreement, signed for a period of five years, also provides for the electrification of Tunisian-Algerian border villages, the standardization of personnel training in the two companies, and the exchange of specialists. [Text] [Tunis DIALOGUE in French No 484, 16 Jan 84 p 34] 9294

PORT AT ZARZIS--An international invitation to tender was just issued for the construction of a commercial and industrial port at Zarzis. The project involves essentially the creation of a 30-hectare dock, a 9-km channel entrance, a 640-m quay, a wharf, a 1.5-km breakwater, 13 km of roads and miscellaneous utilities (water, electricity, etc.), 1,400-m² of buildings and a 5,000-m² shed. Generally speaking, the contract will cover the whole port project construction except for handling equipment. The awarder of the contract is the Ministry of Equipment. The bids will be opened on 10 January 1984. This port project is related to a larger project: the development of the salt and potassium deposit of the SEBKHAT [expansion unknown] in Zarzis (the contract for the deposit evaluation was awarded to a French group formed by Spic-Batignolles and the Alsatian Potash Mines). [Text] [Tunis DIALOGUE in French No 484, 16 Jan 84 p 34] 9294

MOULARES PHOSPHATE DEPOSIT--The feasibility study for the enrichment plant to treat the phosphate ore extracted from the Moulares, M'Rata and Redeyef mines has been undertaken and should be completed by October 1984. The project will cost 50.9 million dinars at current prices. [Text] [Tunis DIALOGUE in French No 484, 16 Jan 84 p 34] 9294

STUDY ON GAS PROJECT--All studies on the project to supply natural gas to Tunisia were completed by the end of the first half of 1983. The project, whose cost is estimated at 30 million dinars, is the first stage of the gas network connection program that will supply the Tunis-Cap-Bon, Sousse, Kasserine and Tadjerouine areas with natural gas from the transmediterranean gas pipeline (Algeria-Tunisia-Italy). The main customers are the Tunisian Electric and Gas Company (STEG) which needs gas for its Sousse power plant turbines, the Tadjerouine cement works (CIOK [expansion unknown], and hotels and households in the Tunis area. The network will have a total length of 357 km. Foreign financing for the project will be provided

by an IBRD [International Bank for Reconstruction and Development] loan of 37 million U.S. dollars, the balance of which (11.5 million dollars) will be used for the second stage which is now in preparation. Accumulated foreign currency expenditures reached 12.28 million Tunisian dinars by the end of the first half of 1983. [Text] [Tunis DIALOGUE in French No 484, 16 Jan 84 p 34] 9294

ISIS OIL FIELD--As part of the development of the Isis field, three wells have now been completed. Proved reserves are estimated at 20-25 million cubic meters in the east compartment, which will be developed in the first stage. A few seismic studies are now under way to determine the location of the Isis-1 evaluation drilling which was scheduled for this year by Total-AGIP[National Italian Oil Company]-Shell. We should note that this deposit is located on the concession covered by the East Center Marine to Gulf of Gabes permit held by the Shell-Amoco-AGIP-Total group whose operator is Total-Tunisian Exploration. ETAP [Tunisian Petroleum Activities Enterprise] has only a 20 percent interest in this concession. [Text] [Tunis DIALOGUE in French No 484, 16 Jan 84 p 34] 9294

RADES-II STATION--The Rades-II thermal power plant project, whose total cost is estimated at 150 million dinars at current prices (108 million dinars in foreign currencies) is now in the study stage and invitations to tender are being prepared. Completion of the project will take about four years and start-up is scheduled for early in 1988. The project provides for the installation of two 150-MW units using three alternate fuels: fuel-oil, gas and coal. Up to 79 percent of the project financing will come from loans (CLT [expansion unknown] supplier credits) and 21 percent from the enterprise's own capital. [Text] [Tunis DIALOGUE in French No 484, 16 Jan 84 p 34] 9294

FRENCH FINANCING FOR TOURIST SECTOR EQUIPMENT--A supplier's credit agreement was signed during the last quarter of 1983 between Tunisia and France for financing imports of French equipment for the tourist and hotel industry. The overall total value of this agreement is 30 million French francs, and it will cover a period of 2 years, with the possibility of a further extension. The borrower is the Banque Nationale de Developpement Touristique (BNDT) [National Tourist Development Bank] (formerly COFIT) [Finance and Tourist Company]. The entities extending the loans, acting jointly, are the Societe Generale [French General Banking Company] on the French side and the Union Tunisienne de Banques (UIB) [Tunisian Union of Banks] on the Tunisian side. We should point out that the change in the name of COFIT related to a change in its by-laws. From an investment company it has become a bank specializing in the development of the tourist sector, which is considered a real instrument for national development. [Text] [Tunis DIALOGUE in French No 486, 30 Jan 84 p 38] 5170

TRACTOR ASSEMBLY--While awaiting the construction of its factory, the Complexe Mecanique de Tunisie (CMT) [Mechanical Manufacturing Complex of Tunisia] began the assembly of a first model of agricultural tractor, the 70 Horsepower 7007 tractor produced by the KHD Company. The assembly work is being done at a temporary facility rented for about 15,000 dinars per month. According to a cumulative balance sheet prepared at the end of August 1983, the CMT has produced 680 tractors. The production rate of by this company is steadily increasing. For the past month it has been producing 3-4 tractors per day. Assembly of the tractors in this temporary facility will continue until June-September 1984, after

which the CMT will be able to operate in its own factory. We might also note that the imports of the 70 Horsepower tractors are on a quota basis. The Tunisian market for all agricultural tractors is presently estimated at between 1,500 and 2,000 units per year. Tractors over and above those produced by CMT will be imported. [Text] [Tunis DIALOGUE in French No 486, 30 Jan 84 p 38] 5170

INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS WITH RENAULT--The Tunisian authorities have given permission to Renault Industrial Vehicles [RVI] to undertake three industrial projects, including a unit for manufacturing equipment for industrial vehicles, a unit for manufacturing polyester parts for automobiles and other purposes, and carrying out a project for a radiator factory, to be called Radiateur S. A. in Gafsa. The latter factory will have a productive capacity of 20,000 radiators for export. These three projects will be carried out under the 5-year industrial cooperation agreement signed in 1979 with STIA [Tunisian Automobile Industry Company]. It should be noted also that new negotiations concerning the development and export sale of AVIA/RVI vehicles are under way. These vehicles could eventually be manufactured by the industrial plants with which RVI cooperates in Morocco and Tunisia, in order to meet local requirements and to establish export flows from these countries. [Text] [Tunis DIALOGUE in French No 486, 30 Jan 84 p 37] 5170

HYDRAULIC LIME PLANT IN THALA--The Societe Tunisienne de Chaux (STC) de Thala [Tunisian Lime Company of Thala], which has an annual productive capacity of 200,000 tons of hydraulic lime, will construct its plant in two large complexes. The Buttner Company of France, a subsidiary of Babcock [an American engineering company], will be responsible for the whole calcination line and surrounding facilities, including the civil engineering work. This work is estimated to cost about 10 million dinars. The STC will be responsible for the rest of the construction: terracing, bagging the product, shops and warehouses, administrative offices, and procurement of the raw material from the quarries. It will also supervise the work done by the Buttner Company: approving its plans and orders for equipment, handling the reception of the equipment for the factory, and supervising the assembly of the equipment, in cooperation with Buttner. We also note that STC is coordinating its own segment of the work, which it will turn over to Tunisian companies, in this case: SFUDI (for the architectural work), SECURAS (for the control of the civil engineering work), Bouzguenda (for the civil engineering work), and the Ateliers de Constructions Metalliques de Gabes (ACMG) [Gabes Metal Construction Workshops] (for the structural work). The construction of the installation is expected to be completed by the end of 1984, and the provisional date for starting operations is about April-May 1985. [Text] [Tunis DIALOGUE in French No 486, 30 Jan 84 pp 37-38] 5170

TRADE, TARIFFS WITH MOROCCO--Tunisia and Morocco are now considering a new trade and tariff agreement. Tunisia has submitted proposals to Morocco, which can be summarized as follows: - Moroccan products would be treated as domestic products in Tunisia and vice versa. This would abolish all duties and taxes on products from the two countries, except for internal taxes applicable to domestic products. - The concept of origin of industrial products would be redefined for each of three product categories: products obtained entirely in the exporting country; products included in lists indicating processing criteria to be defined by the

two parties; and the remaining products meeting the criteria of a 40 percent rate of integration under the present agreement. We should point out that the Ministry of National Economy has made it a point to associate all departments and organizations concerned in the preparation of these proposals. [Text] [Tunis DIALOGUE in French No 487, 6 Feb 84 p 34] 9294

TRADE BALANCE WITH ALGERIA--To promote trade relations between Algeria and Tunisia, a trade agreement was signed recently in Algiers by the two brother countries; under the agreement, our country will purchase from Algeria, this year, 80 million Tunisian dinars' worth of energy products. These include in particular gas, kerosene and gas oil. In connection with the promotion of trade relations, we should not fail to mention the evolution of the Tunisian-Algerian balance of trade which has always shown a surplus in favor of Tunisia. In 1981, this surplus reached a record high of some 21 million dinars, and then dropped appreciably in 1982 when it amounted to only 2.6 million dinars. This is due to the decline of Tunisian exports which dropped from 24.2 million dinars in 1981 to 13.7 million dinars in 1982, whereas our imports from Algeria increased considerably, from 3.1 to 11.1 million dinars during the same period. The decline of exports is due mainly to the interruption of fertilizer, bottle, tube and pipe sales; as far as imports are concerned, new products were involved, especially propane and butane, ammonium nitrate and health products. We should also point out that Tunisian-Algerian trade during the first 8 months of 1983 resulted in a 5.4-million dinar surplus in favor of Tunisia. [Text] [Tunis DIALOGUE in French No 487, 6 Feb 84 p 34] 9294

SOCOTU CEO--On Monday 30 January 1984, Mr Brahim Khouadja, minister of transport and communications, installed Mr Alouane Sfar as new chief executive officer of SOCOTU [expansion unknown] to replace Mr Salah Ben Jennet whose resignation had been accepted. In the past, Mr Alouane Sfar, a graduate from the Paris School for Advanced Business Studies, has been, among other things, manager of Tunis-Air, general secretary of the Tunisian Shipping Company, and general director of the Tunisian National Port Office. [Text] [Tunis DIALOGUE in French No 487, 6 Feb 84 p 34] 9294

CSO: 4519/102

INFRASTRUCTURE, INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT DISCUSSED

Frankfurt/ Main FRANKFURTER ZEITUNG/BLICK DURCH DIE WIRTSCHAFT in German
23 Jan 84 p 2

[Article by W. An.: "Several Industrial Projects Being Completed in Bahrain"]

[Text] Frankfurt, 22 January--The island state of Bahrain which, along with Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman, is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), is receiving support for its economic development above all from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. In the recent past, the latter two countries have taken part once more in a number of projects aimed at developing industry and infrastructure in Kuwait. The most important projects in the industrial sector include the production of petrochemicals; aluminum processing and the production of iron ore pellets. There is also a project for the construction of a hydrocracker. As far as the infrastructure is concerned, there are plans for the construction of a thermal power plant, a seawater desalination plant, a dam connecting Bahrain and Saudi Arabia as well as for the enlargement of the international airport and the telephone system.

On the island of Sitra in northeastern Bahrain, a major petrochemical complex is being built by the Italian firm of Snamprogetti SpA, Milan, acting as a general contractor which is to have an annual capacity of 350,000 tons of ammonia and methanol each. The principal is the Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (GPIC) owned in equal parts by Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Saipem SpA of Milan which, like Snamprogetti, is part of the state-owned Italian ENI Group was awarded a subcontract for construction and mechanical work. Other subcontracts were awarded to Wimpey Laboratories Ltd of Hayes, Middlesex, belonging to the George Wimpey PLC construction project group of London, for soil testing; to Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds Ltd (GKN) of London, for foundation work and to Motherwell Bridge for four storage tanks worth \$10.5 million. The domestic construction firm of Ahmed Mansor Al A'ali is also participating in the project.

Udhe GmbH of Dortmund, a member of the Hoechst Group, has supplied the technology and basic engineering. This firm is also responsible for the training of GPIC technical personnel and is acting in an advisory capacity in the realization of the project. Investments for the petrochemical complex, which is to start operation in October 1985, are said to amount to more than \$400 million. The funds were primarily secured through an international bank loan amounting to \$300 million coordinated and guaranteed by a five-member banking consortium—including the Arab Banking Corporation, the Arab Petroleum Investments Corporation, the Gulf International Bank, the Kuwait Foreign Trading, Contracting and Investment Company and the National Bank of Bahrain.

A plant operated by Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) since 1971 has been producing 170,000 tons of crude aluminum annually after it was enlarged. In conjunction with Alba, Garmco, the Gulf Aluminium Rolling Mill Co, is now building an aluminum rolling mill which is to turn out 40,000 tons rolled aluminum annually. In early August 1983, Kobe Steel Co Ltd of Japan was awarded the contract amounting to \$100 million to build the mill. To finance the project, an international banking consortium extended a loan of \$91 million in November 1983. Lloyds Bank International Ltd of Great Britain acted as an advisor to Garmco in this transaction.

A project by the Arab Iron and Steel Co (AISCO) calls for the construction of an iron ore pellet production plant which is to produce 4 million tons annually. The primary owners of AISCO are the Arab Mining Co, the Kuwait Foreign Trading, Contracting and Investment Co, three domestic banks and the Bahrain social security system. The plant is being built on a 1.2 million square meter lot east of the large Arabian Ship Repair Yard (ASRY).

The contract worth \$207 million was awarded to Japan's Kobe Steel Co Ltd. A \$24 million subcontract was awarded to Balfour Beatty Construction Ltd of Thornton Heath, Surrey for the construction of a deep-water pier at which bulk goods freighters up to 100,000 tons may be unloaded. About half of the AISCO output will probably be delivered on a direct reduction basis to steel mills in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Iraq. There is no market in Bahrain itself. AISCO has plans for a first direct reduction steel mill which is to have an output of 2 million tons annually. But the funds needed to carry out the project have not yet been secured.

Another major project for which funds are not yet available involves the construction of a hydrocracker to be used primarily for the production of light products such as gasoline and gas oils by the Heavy Oil Converter Co (HOCC). The facility is to have a throughput capacity of 80,000 barrels a day. The American firm of C. E. Lummurs, which is part of the Combustion Engineering Inc project group of Stamford, CN, was given the job of preparing a feasibility study. The investment needs are estimated at about \$1.8 billion. Ownership of HOCC is divided between the Bahrain National

Oil Co (Banoco) with 40 percent and Petromin of Saudi Arabia as well as the Kuwait National Oil Co with 30 percent each. The hydrocracker is to be operated in conjunction with the existing crude oil refinery run by the Bahrain Petroleum Co (Bapco) which has a daily throughput capacity of 250,000 barrels.

Brown, Boveri & Co, Ltd (BBC) of Mannheim is presently constructing the Rifaa II power plant which is to make a substantial contribution to providing Bahrain with energy by the middle of 1984. The power plant will have six gas turbines with an installed capacity of some 90 megawatts each. The contract also includes several other projects aimed at improving the infrastructure such as the construction and outfitting of a modern training center for power plant personnel. The Swiss firm of Motor-Columbus Co of Baden is participating in an advisory capacity. The Rifaa I power plant which has five gas turbines (with an output of 50 megawatts each) started operations in the late summer of 1980. It was built by Kraftwerk Union Co (KWU) of Muelheim/Ruhr.

In February 1983, a Japanese consortium consisting of the Sakasura Engineering Co and the Sumimoto Corp was awarded a contract worth \$132 million by the ministry of works, electricity and water for the construction of a large seawater desalination plant with a daily capacity of 46,000 cubic meters of drinking water. The site chosen for the plant is located at Ras Abu Jarjar near Askar on the East coast of Bahrain. The Swedish firm of Sweco, Stockholm is acting as an adviser on this project.

Bahrain is being connected to the mainland (Saudi Arabia) by a 25-kilometer causeway due to be completed by December 1985. The main contract for the construction work worth \$564 million went to Bandar Ballast International, a joint Dutch-Saudi Arabian undertaking owned by the Netherlands Ballast-Nedam Group and Prince Bandar of Saudi Arabia. The longest bridge section of the project is 5,150 meters in length. In addition, four more bridges will be built. Consulting work is being performed by Saudi Danish Consultants, a firm headquartered in Riad and made up of two Danish and one Saudi Arabian companies. The project is being financed in its entirety by Saudi Arabia.

Bahrain's international airport located in the northeast on Muharraq Island has been undergoing enlargement and modernization since 1982. Total investments for this project, which is to be completed by 1986, are estimated at some \$12.5 million. The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development granted Bahrain a loan of something under \$3 million in November 1983 for partial funding of the project. The starting and landing strips are to be lengthened through the reclamation of land; the buildings are to be enlarged and an additional parking area for aircraft is to be built. In addition, the airfield lighting system is to be replaced. The contract for this job was awarded to the Siemens Co of Munich and Berlin in the fall of 1982.

The Bahrain Telecommunications Co (Batelco) is responsible for the country's communications. The Bahrain government owns 60 percent of its stock and Cable & Wireless PLC, London, a British firm, owns 40 percent. Management functions are handled by Cable & Wireless PLC. In 1984, Batelco is planning to enlarge the telecommunications system at a cost of some \$44 million. The Japanese firm of Fujitsu recently installed a \$47 million, 435 kilometer long coaxial cable which is to provide 1,200 telephone links between Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

9478

CSO: 4620/30

BUDGET OBJECTIVES FOR 1984 INDICATED

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 14 Jan 84 p 4

[Article by Dr B. Al-Alak: "1984 Budget--Optimal Use of Manpower"]

[Text] World economists and businessmen have been reporting the state of the Iraqi economy with amazement. Their attitude can mainly be attributed to the fact that the Iraqi economy has undermined all classical economic consumptions which state that a war must have drastic effects on the structure of even the strongest economies. And although Iraq has entered its fourth year of war against the Iranian aggressors, the Iraqi economy has managed to maintain a sort of economic stability, and scored some success in certain fields.

The extent of construction and development activities can also be viewed in the enormous number of projects that are currently being executed or awaiting final approval. These projects signify Iraq's intentions to continue with the development programme despite the war.

It is this determination which has actually drawn world's attention to Iraq, simply because confidence in any economy can be concreted if that economy can successfully withstand the drastic effects of a war, let alone achieving progress during it.

It should be recalled that when the 1981 Iraqi Investment Plan was announced, world economists and businessmen, who were then unfamiliar with Iraq and its people and leadership, doubted whether Iraq would be able, under fierce war conditions, to implement the plan. However, when 1982 reached its end, Iraq proudly announced that projects embodied in the 1981 Investment Plan were all implemented with success, and were even exceeded those mentioned in the plan.

To be more accurate, the following projects were all implemented, covering all fields of the economy.

- (a) 401 projects in the agricultural sector.
- (b) 700 projects in the industrial sector.
- (c) 525 projects in the transport and communication sector.

(d) 799 projects in the education and higher education and scientific research sector.

(e) 406 projects in the construction sectors.

(f) other projects covering a wide spectrum of activities vital to the national economy and the people's welfare.

In fact, allocations for the investment plan during 1981 (which was the first year of the Five-Year Plan) rose by 29 percent as compared with allocations for 1980.

Similar achievements were reported for the 1982 and 1983 Investment Plan, to the extent that world confidence in the Iraqi economy reached its highest level in 1983, when Iraq announced that its foreign currencies and gold reserves were untouched during the war and that its currency coverage was further enhanced due to the generous gold and money donations of the Iraqi and Arab people.

Another testimony to the strength of the Iraqi economy and Iraq's determination to continue the development and construction efforts despite the war imposed on it by Iran is the Iraqi budget which was approved last week by the Iraqi National Assembly in the most democratic way. This budget is unique in the sense that it concentrates on enhancing the state of the economy rather than just maintaining an economic balance.

The Iraqi Leadership strongly feels that Iraq possesses enormous potentialities, both financial and human, and these potentialities are not all fully exploited and utilized. Hence the 1984 budget concentrates on the need to initiate and operate new projects on the basis of full utilization of human, financial and technical efforts in a way that secure the availability of locally manufactured goods and the exportation of some of them.

It is also no secret that during the war Iraq has managed to increase its export, mainly to the Arab world, and that every encouragement has been rendered by the government to industry to enable it to become more export oriented than before. As a result a number of industries, both in the socialist and private sectors of the economy are now devoting utmost efforts to export activities.

It is no wonder therefore that the main objectives of the 1984 budget are the sound distribution of manpower at government offices and the establishments and the optimal exploitation of energies.

Indeed, the report of the Ninth Congress of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party (June 1982) concentrates on the need to develop creative work and scientific and practical measures to increase and promote output in all fields of the socialist sector, namely industry, trade, agriculture and services, making this sector a model for sincere, productive and developed work. The report also stresses the need for perseverant, scientific and patient work to go on with the comprehensive development.

In this context, the 1984 budget embodies the principles and directives of the Ninth Congress of the Party, as well as to promote in a practical way the experiment characteristic of 17-30 July Revolution, which set a model that won the admiration and appreciation of not only the Arab nation and the Third World, but also of numerous international circles.

Another unique feature of the 1984 budget is the emphasis on the necessity for management to play its desired role in initiating and creating the desired change in production, productivity, performance and work efficiency. This important point was raised at the National Assembly by Member of Revolution Command Council (RCC) and First Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Taha Yassin Ramadhan, when he said that management is more receptive to development and is the backbone of all other social activities.

"Therefore, it is essential for the ministers concerned to develop this process, increase productivity and manpower performance, make available all the latest equipment and factories and operate them ideally," Mr Ramadhan added.

The 1984 budget also stresses the need to render and enhance social, economic and health services to the community and to raise the standard of living of the people, not merely by raising wages and salaries but also through the continuous government subsidies on goods and services rendered by the socialist sector.

This is another input in the budget which it embodies in the report of the Ninth Congress of the Party. The report particularly concentrates on the need to continue the socialist construction energetically and faithfully in all fields and the commitment to principles and socialist ethics to serve the people, raise their standard of living, promote their creative capabilities and liberate them from all restrictions that impede their material and moral progress.

Emphasis is also being placed on the strategic projects that supported the war effort and consolidated the efficiency of both the army and Iraqi people.

As for the foreign trade plan, the budget adopts principles based on the Iraqi economy, taking into account the capability of the national production in meeting part of the local and intermediary consumption. The foreign trade plan also caters for consumer and capital goods in accordance with the plans drawn up to expand efficiency for better economy. In the plan also, the requirements of defending Iraq and the provision of staple commodities are given top priority.

CSO: 4400/170

CONSTRUCTION ON HIGH-SPEED RAIL LINE UNDER WAY

Baghdad THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER in English 22 Jan 84 p 4

[Text]

Construction of section 3 and 4 of the proposed new railway line connecting Samawa and Mussayeb stations on the existing Baghdad-Basra line via the historical cities of Kerbala, Najaf and Kufa is the first project to be taken up by the New Railway Implementation Authority (NRIA) set up by the government of the Republic of Iraq for modernization and speedy development of the railway network of the country.

While planning the facilities for the project, the NRIA has kept in view the growing needs of a fast developing economy and has adopted the highest and the very best standards of construction existing anywhere in the world.

The line has been designed for permissible speed of 250 km/hr for passenger trains and 140 km/hr for freight trains.

The project when completed will serve the existing cement factories near Samawa and Kufa and a new cement factory coming up near Kerbala.

It will also serve various other industries in the area based on limestone and other minerals existing along the route.

It will cater to the passenger traffic to the holy cities of Kerbala, Najaf and Kufa which attract thousands of pilgrims from all over the world every year.

The section from Samawa to Kerbala will also form part of the projected direct railway link between Arabian Gulf and the Mediterranean Sea, together with the proposed line from Kerbala to Ramadi, a survey for which has been taken up and Ramada-Al-Qaim section of the new line which is under construction.

The first phase of the project comprising sections 3 and 4 had acquired urgency as the existing railway line cuts across Samawa town resulting in traffic hold-ups and the existence of a big yard in the heart of the city is coming in the way of its planned development.

Two important bridges on Shat-Al-Sweyer and Euphrates River on the existing line have also outlived their lives and their rebuilding can be avoided if the first phase of the project which bypasses these bridges gets completed.

Alignment

The alignment of the new line takes off from Km. 280.985 of the existing Baghdad-Basra lines at a distance of 6.32 km. south of Samawa station. The alignment runs along the fringes of the area to be covered by Samawa town when it is fully developed according to the master plan and will join again the Baghdad-Basra line at Hajimah station which is the first station north of Samawa.

The total length of the alignment is 30.6 km. The new Samawa station will be on a distance of about 5 kilometres from the existing one. There will be two sidings taking off from Samawa station, one serving the existing cement factory and the other the newly constructed grain silos.

The proposed high speed branch line to serve the newly constructed al-Muthanna cement factory having capacity of 2 million tonnes of cement per annum and which is located at a distance of 31 km. from Samawa, will also take off from Samawa station.

Earthwork

The entire alignment passes through very flat agricultural area and the formation in the entire length is in embankment, the maximum height being 11 meters. The water table is high and ranges between one and two meters below ground level. The existing soil is of poor quality and the banks will be constructed using granular material to be transported from suitable quarries for the bottom 60 cm thick layer and the top 30 cm layer.

Banks having the height of 4.5m will be of sandwich design having alternate layers of granular material and locally available common soil. Special measures have been adopted to accelerate consolidation of saturated clay under high embankment at some locations.

Bridges

The line has three river crossings over Shat-al-Sweyer, Euphrates and at Shang on which prestressed concrete girder bridges having 40 m. span supported on one meter dia. pile foundations are being constructed.

There will be five road crossings for which also RCC slabs and T-beams are being provided except for the railway bridge for Baghdad-Basra road which falls in Samawa yard which will have pre-stressed concrete girders for the six track at that location. Pile foundations of 100 cm and 80 cm dia. have been adopted for road bridges.

Culverts

In all 94 box and pipe culverts will be provided for drainage, irrigation channels, pipelines and pedestrian crossings.

Track

The track comprises of UIC 60 kg. rails resting on prestressed concrete monoblock sleepers at spacings of 60 cm on running and yard lines and 75cm on less important lines.

The rails will be continuously welded with the help of an on-frock mobile flash butt welding machine.

A sleeper factory has been set up at Samawa for produc-

tion of prestressed concrete sleepers with a capacity of 624 sleepers per day by the long line method for meeting the requirement of the project. 1:13 UIC turnouts have been adopted for passenger lines and 1:11 turnouts for goods lines and yards serving the loco depot and the repair centre at Samawa station.

Well seasoned oak wood sleepers and cast manganese crossings have been used for the turnouts. The joints will be either thermit welded or glued with or without insulation and fish plated joints will be avoided.

Ballast

Ballast cushion of 33 cm is to be provided for the main line and important yard lines and 25 cm for less important lines. Suitable ballast of dolomitic limestone has been located at a distance of about 200 km from the project site near Najaf and is being transported from there.

Stations

The project will have two stations including an important one at Samawa. Samawa yard will have 13 running lines, 5 platform faces, a freight shed, a refrigerated freight shed, a passenger underpass, a carriage underpass, maintenance facilities for track, signalling and electrical equipment and an imposing station building having an area of 1933 sq.m. the station building will have a big passenger.

Two other lines, which the New Railways Implementation Authority is implementing are the Baghdad-Kut-Um Qasr and Kirkuk-Baiji-Haditha networks.

NRIA report

MEMBERS OF NEW CABINET PROFILED

Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Jan 84 p 13

[Article: "Members of the New Cabinet"]

[Text] Prime Minister, Mr Ahmad 'Ubaydat, Prime Minister and Minister of Defense

He was born in Hartha in Irbid in 1938. He completed his secondary education in 1955 in Nablus, and then he continued his education in the University of Baghdad where he earned a bachelor's degree in law in 1960-1961.

The most notable positions his excellency held were: a teacher for 1 year after completing his secondary school education; a customs clerk for 3 months after graduating from the university; a 1st lieutenant in the police from 1961 till 1964; and a General Intelligence officer until he took over the position of assistant director of intelligence [where he served] from 1964 to 1974.

On 1 September 1974 he was appointed director of General Intelligence with the rank of a major general. He remained in that position till 19 April 1982 when he assumed the position of minister of interior. He continued in that position till 10 January 1984.

The new prime minister has been awarded a number of high medals.

Mr 'Ubaydat has been known for his dedication to work, his broad knowledge and his concern for solving citizens' problems and serving citizens.

Mr Sulayman 'Arar, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior

He was born in Ma'an in 1934. In 1961 he earned a degree in law from Cairo, and then he earned a diploma in civil law from the College of Law at al-Rabat University.

The positions he held:

A diplomatic officer in the Jordanian Embassy in Jeddah from 1961 to 1967; a diplomat in the Jordanian Embassy in Algeria and then in Morocco till 1970.

An administrative officer in the Ministry of the Interior till 1972; a general

manager of the National Alliance till 1973; a general manager and editor-in-chief of the newspaper, AL-RA'Y till 1976; and then president of the Journalists' Union.

In 1976 he was appointed minister of the interior. He was reappointed to that position where he served until 1979. Then he served as minister of state for prime ministry affairs till the end of 1979. After that he took over the position of minister of agriculture and minister of state for prime ministry affairs till 1980. Then he served as minister of the interior from 1980 to 1982. He was then appointed president of the National Advisory Council where he served till 1984.

Mr Ahmad 'Abd-al-Karim al-Tarawnah, Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs and Minister of Justice

He was born in al-Mazar in al-Karak in 1931.

In 1954 he earned a degree in law from the College of Law at the University of Iraq.

The most important positions he held:

Public prosecutor in Irbid and Hebron till 1955.

Member of the Court of First Instance in Hebron till 1956.

Public prosecutor in 1957; a justice of the peace in Amman till 1959; then chief of the Industrial Court in Amman till 1962.

He was appointed member of the Court of First Instance in Amman where he served till 1973. Afterwards he took over the position of minister of the interior. From 1974 to 1976 he held the position of chief of the Accounting Office. From 1976 to 1979 he served as minister of justice, and then in 1980 he served as minister of justice once again where he has been until yesterday.

Tahir Nash'at al-Misri, Minister of Foreign Affairs

He was born in Nablus in 1942.

He completed his secondary school education at al-Najah [Success] College in 1959. Then in 1965 he earned a bachelor's degree in business from the University of Texas in the United States.

The most important positions he held:

Assistant head of a department in the Central Bank since 1965; a representative for Nablus in the National Assembly since 1973.

In 1973 he was appointed minister of state for the affairs of the occupied land. After that he was appointed chief of the Executive Office for the Affairs of the Occupied Land till the middle of 1973.

From 1973 to 1984 he was appointed ambassador for Jordan in a number of foreign capitals. The last one of these positions was that of Jordan's ambassador to London. He is a member of the present House of Representatives.

Dr Muhammad 'Adub al-Zaban, Minister of Communications

He was born in Madba in 1943.

He completed his secondary education in Madba in 1964.

He continued his education and earned a bachelor's degree in medicine and surgery from Cairo University in 1972.

The most important positions he held:

A physician in al-Ashrafiyah General Hospital in 1972; a physician at the Madba Health Center in 1973; a member of the Executive Committee of the Arab National Alliance; a minister of municipal and rural affairs in 1974; member of the Advisory National Council in 1978; minister of communications in 1979; minister of communications once again from 1980 to 1984.

Mr Ibrahim Ayyub, Minister of Supplies

He completed his secondary education in Amman in 1943. In 1954 he earned a specialist's diploma in telecommunications from the British Telecommunications Corps School.

In 1961 he earned a certificate from the U.S. College of Command in the United States.

The most important positions he held:

Leadership positions and staff positions in Jordan's armed forces from 1943 to 1961.

Military attache to the Jordanian Embassy in Baghdad till 1965.

Commander of the Royal Telecommunications Corps till 1973.

Adviser to the Royal Hashemite Office till 1974.

Assistant to the chief of staff for administration with the rank of major general till 1976 and then minister of the interior for municipal and rural affairs in 1976.

Then he served as general manager of the Jordanian Phosphate Mining Company till August 1980.

Then in 1980 he took over the position of minister of supplies. He continues to hold that position in the new government.

Mr Hikmat al-Sakit, Minister of Education

He earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1951. Among the most notable positions he held are:

He worked as a teacher from 1951 to 1954; as a school principal till 1962; then as a school superintendent till 1963.

He served as director of education for the governorate of Amman till 1969, then as director of examinations till 1978. Then in the same year he served as under-secretary of the Ministry of Education. He then served as chief of the Civil Service Office till 1979. Then he served as minister of agriculture till 1980.

Between 1980 and 1984 he served as minister of state for prime ministry's affairs.

Dr Jawad al-'Anani, Minister of Industry and Trade

He completed his secondary education at the Islamic College of Learning in Amman in 1961.

He went on with his education and earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the American University in Cairo in 1967. Then in 1970 he earned a master's degree in economics from Vanderbilt University in the state of Tennessee in the United States. Then in 1975 he earned a doctorate in economics from the University of Georgia in the United States.

The most notable positions he held:

A research economist in the Department of Research and Studies of the Central Bank between the years 1967 and 1972. He then served as chief of the Monetary Division in the Department of Research and Studies of the Central Bank from 1972 till 1976. From 1976 to 1977 he served as chief of the Department of Research and Studies of the Central Bank.

In 1979 he was appointed minister of supplies, and from 1980 to 1984 he served as minister of labor.

Mr Tahir Hikmat, Minister of Transportation

He completed his secondary education in Amman and went on to continue his education, earning a bachelor's degree in law from the University of Damascus in 1960. The most important positions he held are:

Member of the Executive Committee of the Arab National Alliance; legal adviser to the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Culture and Youth and al-Zarqa' Municipal Council; member of the National Advisory Council in 1978; and minister of culture and youth in 1979. In 1982 he was appointed member of the National Advisory Council where he served till the end of the council's session.

Dr Hanna 'Awdah, Minister of Finance

He was born in Haifa, and he earned a degree in statistics from the International Center of Statistics in Beirut in 1953. In 1957 he earned a graduate diploma in economic planning from the Institute for Economic Studies in the Hague. In 1963 he earned a bachelor's degree in mathematical economics from the Rotterdam University of Economics. He [also] earned a doctorate in statistics and economics. The most important positions he held are those of assistant statistician at the

International Relief Agency in Beirut; a research assistant at the Institute for Social Studies in The Hague; chairman of the Department of Economic Studies at the Reconstruction Council in 1963 and 1964; director of the Department of Studies, Planning and Financing at the Reconstruction Council in 1964; secretary general of the National Council for Planning in 1968; and chairman of the National Council for Planning from 1974 to 1984.

Mrs Layla Sharaf, Minister of Information

She was born in Lebanon and has a B.A. in Arabic literature from the American University in Beirut. She also earned a diploma in journalism from the United States.

Mrs Layla gained broad experiences in all areas after her marriage to His Excellency, the late al-Sharif 'Abd-al-Hamid Sharaf early in the sixties.

Mrs Layla Sharaf has contributed to the progress of women and to social progress in Jordan. She is a member of the Royal Commission for Education which is chaired by Queen Nur al-Husayn. Mrs Sharaf is a representative of the Royal Society for the Protection of the Environment, and she chairs the Technical and National Guidance Committee of the National Advisory Council.

Mrs Layla Sharaf accompanied His Highness King Husayn and Her Highness Queen Nur on numerous visits their highnesses made to numerous countries of the world.

Engineer Hamd Allah al-Nabulsi, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment

He was born in al-Salt in 1927.

In 1954 he earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Cairo University. The most important positions he held were those of director of operations in the governorates of Ma'an, in the capital and in Jerusalem. He held these positions from 1954 till 1963.

He served as chief of the Materials Branch in the Ministry of Public Works till 1965. He then served as chief of buildings in the Ministry of Public Works till 1971. From 1971 till 1984 he served as general manager of the Housing Organization.

'Abd Khalaf Dawdiyeh, Minister of Islamic Affairs, Holy Places and Religious Trusts

He was born in al-Tafilah in 1922.

In 1939 he completed his secondary school education in Jordan.

In 1942 he earned a certificate from the Training Institute for Senior UNESCO Educators in Beirut.

In 1945 he began his career as a civil servant, a teacher and president of the teachers' association.

In 1962 he served as director of educational training for the International Relief Agency in Jerusalem.

In 1965 he served as director of public culture for the armed forces.

Between 1966 and 1968 he served as director of education in the capital.

In 1968 he served as director of public education at the Ministry of Education.

Between 1969 and 1973 he served as undersecretary of the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Holy Places and Religious Trusts.

Between 1974 and 1984 he served as governor of Ma'an and al-Balqa'. His last official position was that of governor of Irbid.

Mr Muhammad Bashir Isma'il, Minister of Agriculture

He was born in al-Zarqa' in 1936.

He completed his secondary education in 1951.

In 1951 he joined the armed forces as a cadet officer, and he continued in the service till 1976. He served in several military positions, the most important of which was that of assistant to the chief of the Staff Commission for Planning, Organization, Research and Development.

In 1976 he retired [from the service] as major general.

He attended numerous military courses in the country and abroad. The most important of these were courses at the Command and Staff College in Pakistan, a top management course in the United States in 1973 and a course at the British College of Defense in 1975.

Between 1982 and 1984 he served as chairman of the board of the Economic and Social Organization for Military Retirees where his activities in farming and construction and in developing the business of the organization were noticeable.

He holds several high medals, the most important of which are the first class Medal of Independence, the Medal of Service and the Cedars of Lebanon Medal.

Dr Taysir 'Abd-al-Jabir, Minister of Labor

He was born in Jerusalem in 1940.

He completed his preparatory education at the Hashemite School in al-Bayrah, and then he completed his secondary education at al-Shuwaykh Secondary School in Kuwait.

He earned a bachelor's degree in economics from the College of Economics and Science at Cairo University in 1963.

In 1968 he also earned a master's degree in economics from the University of

Southern California, and in 1969 he earned a doctorate in economics from the same university. Among the positions he held are:

--Director of the Research Department at the Central Bank of Jordan from 1970 to 1972.

--Director of the Economics Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1973 and 1974.

--Regional expert in development planning at the United Nations (al-Aqua) in 1975 and 1976.

--Secretary general of the National Council for Planning from 1977 to 1979, and undersecretary of the Ministry of Labor from 1979 till he became minister.

Mr Shawkat Mahmud, Minister for Occupied Land Affairs

He was born in 1931 in Khirbat Bani Harith in the district of Ramallah.

He completed his secondary education in the city of Jerusalem. Afterwards he joined the police corps where he served from 1955 till 1976, retiring then as brigadier general.

He served as undersecretary of the Ministry for Occupied Land Affairs from 1976 to 1984.

Dr Kamil al-'Ajluni, Minister of Health

He was born in al-Sarih in Irbid in 1943.

He has a bachelor's degree in medicine and surgery from the University of Heidelberg in West Germany which he earned in 1966. In 1968 he earned a doctorate in anatomy. Between 1969 and 1973 he studied in the United States and was certified by the the U.S. board.

Between 1973 and 1975 he earned a certificate of fellowship in endocrinology from the United States.

In 1975 he served as associate professor at the University of Wisconsin in the United States.

From 1975 to 1984 he served as associate professor in the College of Medicine at the University of Jordan. Then he became chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine and then acting director of University Hospital. Then he became assistant dean of the College of Medicine.

At the present time he is employed as deputy dean of the College of Medicine at the University of Jordan as well as technical director for Jordan's University Hospital. He was recently awarded the Schumann Award for Medical Sciences.

Engineer Ra'if Nijm, Minister of Public Works

He was born in al-Nasirah in 1926.

He has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Cairo University, [class of] 1951.

From 1951 to 1966 he worked in the private engineering sector in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

From 1966 to 1976 he worked as director of buildings in the Ministry of Public Works.

From 1976 to 1984 he served as director of the Engineering Office at al-Yarmuk University and director of the university project.

Dr 'Abdallah Ahmad 'Uwaydat

Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities

He was born in 1948 in the village of al-Madwar, in the subdistrict of al-Mafriq.

In 1969 he earned a bachelor's degree in the Arabic language from the University of Baghdad.

In 1974 he earned a diploma in education from the University of Jordan.

In 1979 he earned a master's degree in education from the University of Jordan.

In 1981 he earned a doctorate in educational psychology from the University of California.

From 1982 to 1984 he worked as an assistant professor of sociology in the Curriculum Department in the College of Education at the University of Jordan.

Mr 'Abd-al-Salam Kan'an, Minister of Social Development

He was born in 'Anabta in 1933.

He completed his secondary education in 'Anabta and then earned a diploma in educational administration from Oxford University in Britain.

He earned a master's degree in administration and education from Indiana University in the United States.

The most important positions he held are:

He worked in the field of education and then worked as a school superintendent. He served as director of public education at the [International] Relief Agency from 1954 till 1981.

He was appointed to the National Advisory Council in 1982.

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CSO: 8104/0737

AL-DUSTUR ON JORDAN VALLEY WATER CRISIS

JN061628 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Mar 84 p 11

["Press investigation" by Muhammad Abu Ghawsh and Jamil al-Sa'ayidah: "AL-DUSTUR Sounds the Alarm; Water Crisis in Jordan Valley"]

[Text] First of all, we pray to God to bestow His mercy on us and to send us rain. The farmers in the Jordan Valley are experiencing the manifestations of crisis and anxiety. The officials in the Jordan Valley Authority, prompted by their sense of responsibility, are experiencing periods of anticipation and caution due to the crisis resulting from the scarcity of rain this season. This scarcity has resulted in a drop in the level of irrigation water. As we all know, irrigation in the Jordan Valley is the lifeline in this most fertile agricultural area, an area which is considered to be "the breadbasket" of our homeland, and the backbone of our national agricultural and economic production.

Reliable information and reports from official sources confirm that irrigation water has registered a 20 percent drop. This drop could increase to 50 percent if the situation continues as it is--hence the danger and concern about what the situation could be in the next few months.

This information says that on 1 March there were only 22.6 million cubic meters of water stored in the King Talal Dam reservoir, compared to the reservoir's capacity of about 48 million cubic meters. This water is used for irrigating 50,000 dunams of agricultural land, plus an additional 15,000 dunams in the al-Zarqa' Irrigation Triangle Project.

In view of this drop, the competent authorities have already banned the growing of summer vegetables and various types of trees. They also banned the growing of crops for the fall season, which begins in August and September this year. Furthermore, they strictly banned the use of water pumps for pumping water from the eastern part of the King Talal Dam reservoir, and warned that measures will be taken against contraveners by cutting off the water supply to those agricultural areas and farmers who pump water from the eastern part of the King Talal Dam reservoir and also to those who tamper with the quota system as outlined in the Authority's Council Decision No 439.

The information also says that the amount of water stored in al-Kafrin Dam reservoir has now reached 1.4 million cubic meters, which is equivalent to one-fourth of the reservoir's storage capacity. This means that the stored waters could drop further in the coming months.

As for the Shu'ayb Dam reservoir, it now contains only 250,000 cubic meters, compared to its capacity of 3 million cubic meters.

The Sharhabil Dam reservoir contains 3.2 million cubic meters, compared to its capacity of 4.3 million cubic meters. This reservoir irrigates the northeastern Jordan Valley project by means of sprinklers, and it covers an area of 27,000 dunams. This is in addition to the underground water which is obtained in the same region. These underground sources are fed from the water of the main canal.

One of the manifestations of the water crisis in the Jordan Valley is that some farmers have gone back to using artesian wells, which ceased to be used after the East Ghor Canal Project was implemented. The farmers are doing this with the knowledge of the competent quarters, who are not interfering because of their desire to alleviate the impact of the present crisis. However, the cost per cubic meter from the artesian wells is more than that from the main canal.

Other manifestations and results of the water crisis are that during our field tour of the Jordan Valley yesterday we saw some of the areas that were hit by the drought--areas such as those for growing tomatoes, cabbage, potatoes, beans and eggplant. Some of these areas have become grazing grounds for livestock.

Some of the other aspects of the crisis in the Jordan Valley are the instructions and advice given to the farmers how to plant summer crops such as melons, water-melons and mulukhiyah on their lands. A number of farmers talked to us about this, stressing that they are abiding by these instructions to avoid the expected loss.

The instructions also asked the farmers to limit the areas they intend to cultivate next year. The instructions and directives also recommend postponing to October the season that usually begins in August and September, in the hope that the water situation will improve and in expectation of next year's rain season.

One of the most pronounced aspects of the water crisis in the valley is that the Jordan Valley Authority has been forced to follow a system of water rationing for the farmers as a practical step to face the water shortage. This is also a step toward solving the problem, because it has reduced the irrigation cycle for agricultural units that are irrigated from the main canal from 3 days a week to 2 days a week. On the other hand, a number of farmers told AL-DUSTUR that they have not received any water for more than 10 days, which resulted in the dessication of their crops. Others said that rationing has affected the expected rate of production per dunam.

If we realize that the Jordan Valley is one of the most fertile agricultural lands and a place where millions of dinars are invested; if we consider the results of this on the financial, economic and social levels; and if we concentrate on the agricultural side of the issue, we note according to official information and data that 135,000 dunams are currently cultivated in the Jordan Valley region. These lands, which are irrigated by water from the main canal, are distributed

as follows: 80,000 dunams are planted with vegetables; 39,000 dunams with citrus fruit; 11,000 with grain; 2,000 with guava, pomegranate, figs and olives; and 2,000 dunams are planted with bananas. The continued cultivation of this area depends, as is well known, on the availability of water in the Jordan Valley. This is the crux and cause of this crisis. The concerned authorities estimate that approximately 170,000 dunams are irrigated by the canal.

The most reliable information and records on water say that the waters of the main canal, with the al-Yarmuk River as its source, provide 80 percent of the Jordan Valley's irrigation needs. The Mukhaybah wells provide 20 percent of this amount. Experts say that there is special equipment at the confluence of the canal and its various tributaries in order to monitor the amount of loss.

The Jordan Valley Authority and the concerned official circles have given this situation increasing effort and awareness, as represented by the quick implementation of water rationing as an expedient solution, and continues to devote its efforts to water drilling operations. The authority is currently drilling a number of wells in the Jordan Valley with the objective of feeding the main canal and making the amount of water required for the cultivated areas available. The authority drilled as well in the Rajib area, and preparations are underway to connect it to the main canal. There are also the wells of al-Himah in northern al-Shunah, Wadi al-'Arab, Hisbon, Kafrin and al-Mukhaybah which contribute 20 percent to the main canal.

The authority has also been able to drill a well in the Kufrayn region, and has discovered vast amounts of saline water. The authority is planning to deepen its drilling operations in the hope of reaching water suitable for agriculture.

Information indicates that the preliminary results promise large amounts of subterranean water in the valley area. This may help in the future to overcome the water crisis, where the al-Mukhaybah wells supply the canal with 5400 million cubic meters and the al-Himah well in northern al-Shunah supplies it with about 250 liters per second.

Concerned parties in the authority issued instructions as a result of the lack of rain, the drop in water storage in various dams, and the shortage of water from its various sources. These instructions are:

1. Water is to be supplied to banana and citrus fruit trees that are licensed according to the customary water rationing system.
2. Water is to be supplied to the non-licensed banana and citrus fruit trees and to various vegetables according to the water rationing system applied to vegetables. That is, the banana, citrus fruits and other trees are to be treated like vegetables.
3. Regarding the four irrigation projects in the northeastern valley (over the water level of the main canal), the Zarqa' triangle irrigation and the 18 km extension, Hisban and al-Kafrin: All of the licensed trees here are those that were already planted when these lands were annexed to the four projects.

4. Water is to be supplied to agricultural units without discrimination between the owners or farmers.

5. None of the agricultural units shall be given a turn in addition to the number of turns that are registered in the scheduled weekly irrigation program, except in compensation for a turn when water was not supplied for a certain force majeure.

6. Any hose that is installed to drain water from the main canal or any other source must be removed and returned to the owner, who will be cautioned not to re-install it. If any hose is reinstalled, it will be expropriated and kept at the maintenance and operations office. A record will be kept for violation of this.

7. Any water pump that pumps water from the main canal or any other source will be removed and returned to its owner, who will be cautioned not to reinstall so that it is not expropriated.

8. When the area of land that is eligible for irrigation within the agricultural unit is known, water will only be supplied to the planted area that is eligible for irrigation according to the followed water rationing system.

During a field tour, AL-DUSTUR conducted the following interviews with a number of farmers in the Jordan Valley. Farmer Tawfiq 'Abd-al-Miflih from al-Karamah says: We are suffering from a shortage in the quantity of water allocated to us. This certainly reflects on the productivity of the crops, and consequently we will face an actual material loss. I am currently planting a full agricultural unit. This unit suffers from obvious thirst. Like others, I submitted a requisition in order to obtain water, but we were permitted to have water only once a week. However, 2 weeks passed during which we did not receive the water that we were promised. We appeal to the concerned parties to help us avoid loss because of drought--a loss that it is feared will be similar to that of past years.

Farmer 'Awdah Mahmud al-'Abbadi says: I am planting 100-dunams of land. Seventy percent of my crops were damaged because of water shortage. Even when irrigation water is supplied to my land, very little arrives. We contacted the authority, whose officials told us that the situation will improve, God willing. The reduction in water quantities will harm us, particularly during this drought season. This season now is when we obtain the crop yield. Thus, we need large quantities of water. I and other farmers did not obtain water for 10 days. We pin hope on God, and appeal to the officials to consider the current situation carefully before the farmers run away from the Jordan Valley.

Farmers Fathi Muhammad and Khalaf 'Ulayyan have said that they did not receive the amount of water that was allotted to their two farms, a fact that damaged part of their crops. When they referred to the concerned authorities, they were told that their turns were reduced and that they should resort to water rationing. They also said that this will harm their interests and cause real loss to them as a result of their small crop and the well known drop in prices. They also asserted that they had not had water for nearly 2 weeks even though they officially applied to the authority. They appeal to the officials to consider this situation.

Farmer Sulayman 'Alawi said: After I incurred a loss as a result of the prices, I was surprised by a water shortage. At that time, I was indebted to a landlord for the costs of an agricultural unit. This obliged me to return it to its owner and to work as a day laborer for three dinars in order to support my family, which has suffered a lot since July. I am satisfied with the day labor because it meets my needs and my sons' needs, and it is better than living on hope.

All of the farmers call on the competent authorities to postpone debts due to the farmers federation, the cooperative organization, the agricultural loan corporation, and domestic resources because the required amounts of money are not available. They also hope that the competent authorities will find supply resources for the coming agricultural season, because no farmer can take advantage of his farm while he is in debt.

Al-Haj Khalil Khaddam, 43, is a farmer in Ghor Abu 'Ubaydah and plants an agricultural unit of 36 dunams. He said: Because of the scarcity of rain, the Jordan Valley Authority has begun to ration the distribution of water to us. They have asked us to reduce the area of lands that are being planted, and to not plant summer and October-November vegetables.

Farmer 'Abd al-Karim Abu Zunaymah, 28, is from the Abu 'Ubaydah area. He said that he cultivates 33 dunams of potatoes, onions and tomatoes--some of them in greenhouses. He described the water situation in the valley as bad as a result of lack of rain. This fact led the authority to reduce the amount of water that it distributes. He added that this will lead to the reduction of the cultivated areas and the crops. He added: We are concerned over the coming season, because if the current situation continues regarding the production of vegetables, we will not be able to cultivate our farms. We hope that the competent authorities will grant us loans in light of what we are suffering during this season.

In its coming articles, AL-DUSTUR will cast more light on this crisis which is harming agriculture and farmers in the valley and, consequently, is affecting vegetable and fruit prices, the consumers, and all economic and investment activity. Every effort is required to face this crisis and make the farmers observe and apply instructions. We also will explain the efforts that are being exerted to confront the situation and its possibilities. The competent authorities will study the farmers' demands.

CSO: 4400/177

AGREEMENT ON CANADIAN AID REPORTED SIGNED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Under a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in Dhaka Tuesday between the Government of Canada and the People's Republic of Bangladesh Canada will provide Bangladesh with Canadian dollar 4.88 million (Taka 10 crore 73 lakh approximately) as an additional grant for implementation of the Central Load Despatch Centre Project (CLDCP) says a PID handout.

The objective of this project is to assist the Power Development Board in increasing the reliability quality safety and efficiency of the power network through completion of the load despatch centre. It also aims to provide training to PDB personnel in installation operation and maintenance.

In July 1983 an MOU was signed to provided Canadian dollar 2 0 million as grant for the load despatch centre which was ultimately raised upto Canadian dollar 3.080 million.

The project scheduled to start in January 1984 will be completed by April 1986.

Canada has been one of the largest bilateral donors of Bangladesh since liberation. She had provided Bangladesh with Canadian dollar 227.677 million grant as project aid including the amount provided under this MOU. Total Canadian assistance, all of which is grat, to Bangladesh since 1971-72 amounts to Canadian dollar 862 393 million.

The MOU was signed by Mr. Christopher Westdal the Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh and Mr. M. Khalid Shams, Joint Secretary, External Resources Division, Ministry of Finance and Planning Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, on behalf of their respective Governments.

CSO: 4600/1496

NATIONAL S&T COUNCIL EXECUTIVES HOLD FIRST MEETING

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] The first meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Council for Science and Technology was held at the Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation in Dhaka on Tuesday, reports BSS.

The DCMLA and Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud presided over the meeting.

The meeting discussed at length the relevant aspects towards formulating national science policy and underscored the need for deciding on a perspective programme for promoting national scientific outlook and technological advancement.

It was agreed in the meeting that a draft of national science policy commensurating the existing research efforts of the country should be prepared by the scientist-members of the committee within two months.

Addressing the meeting, the DCMLA who is also the Chairman of the Executive Committee of Science and Technology urged the scientists to evolve such technological know-how as would suit the requirement of our society.

Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud said that the fruits of our cost intensive research and technology must reach the commonman in the fields of food, shelter, energy communication and other basic needs

For this the Energy Minister advised the committee to attract all talents, particularly young scientists, who could effectively reinforce scientific groups for a goal oriented programme at the national level.

The meeting also discussed on the decisions of the Islamic Foundation for science, technology and development along-with the report of the technical committee of South Asian Regional Cooperation.

Earlier, the DCMLA visited the Titas well number six at Brahmanbaria to see for himself the progress of preparatory work of the project for supply of gas. This gas field will be connected with the main Titas transmission line which will add 30 million cft. gas per day.

The Energy Minister was shown round the regenerator and glycol pumps installed for commissioning the gas field. He asked the Petrobangla personnel to complete the work as early as possible.

The DCMLA also visited the Zia Fertilizer Factory at Ashuganj.

CSO: 4600/1496

FOODGRAIN PROCUREMENT TARGET CUT 'DRASTICALLY'

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 26 Jan 84 pp 1, 8

[Article by Syed Badiuzzaman]

[Text] The government has refixed the internal foodgrains procurement target of the current financial year drastically reducing it to less than half at only 3 lakh 11 thousand tons from the original projection of 7 lakh tons.

Because of the downward refixation of the target, the stock (reserve) programme of the current financial year has also been revised lowering it to eight lakh tons from eleven lakh tons estimated originally.

Extremely poor response from the farmers and the producers to sell their produce to the government under its foodgrain procurement drive is learnt to have forced the relevant ministry to sit at a meeting very recently and bring down the target to such a low level.

The farmers to sell their produce at open markets rather than to the government godowns despite the so-called "incentives" in view of the fact that the prices of foodgrains are higher at open market than the procurement price fixed by the government.

The current procurement price of paddy and wheat is Taka 144 per maund and that of coarse rice Taka 225 while these grains are selling at open market at a difference of Taka 10 to Taka 15 more per maund on an average. In October, price of coarse rice per maund was about Taka 25 more than its procurement price.

The foodgrains drive began in July with a view to procuring aus, aman, boro and wheat. Upto January 21, a total of 1.26 lakh tons of foodgrains were procured. It includes 10,000 tons aus, 234 tons wheat and the rest aman.

Last year's procurement drive was also disappointing with only 1.92 lakh tons of foodgrains procured against the target set for 7.60 lakh tons. On the other hand, a total of 18 lakh tons of foodgrains were imported exceeding the import target by 3 lakh tons.

The foodgrains import target of the current financial year has been set at 16.50 lakh tons. Out of it 6.50 lakh tons were imported upto December last.

The current year began with a carryover stock of 6.30 lakh tons of foodgrains. The reserve target of the preceding year also fell short of its target of 12.30 lakh tons. The next financial year is expected to start with a stock of 8 lakh tons.

The food production target this year has been fixed at 1,61 crore tons including 13 lakh tons of wheat. The production is expected to be better than last year's.

CSO: 4600/1503

INDIA

POSSIBILITY OF U.S. INTELLIGENCE-SHARING NOTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Jan 84 pp 1, 7

[Text] Information compiled from a variety of strategic literature shows that Pakistan is setting up an integrated command, control and communication network known as C3 in military parlance, linking the country's air defence system to apex command authority, reports PTI.

The multi-million dollar project began in 1980, and when completed next year, will make Pakistan's air space extremely difficult to penetrate by hostile aircraft. The Hugest Aircraft Corporation of USA is the prime contractor for the project.

Under the C3 project, all air defence elements of Pakistan, including the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) will be integrated into one single system by using highly sophisticated computers and electronic gadgets. Real-time information will be displayed on screen at the apex command centre in Islamabad and operational orders will be transmitted instantaneously to functional units in the far-flung sectors of the country.

PAF's third command, the northern air command (besides the southern and western), was inaugurated on 5 January this year when the PAC chief Air Chief Marshal, Mohammad Anwar Shamin, announced that the new command would help what he called central operations, indicating that some segments of the national network have already become operational.

There have been speculations the southern and western), was ther the C3 would be made into a C31, incorporating the fourth factor, intelligence. This, it is believed, would enable it to be hooked on to the Pentagon circuits for sharing of intelligence and for close coordination between USA and Pakistan for future military operations in the Persian Gulf area by the US Rapid Deployment Force.

Such last communication means are considered necessary if efficient coordination among top decision-makers in Washington and in the South-West Asian capitals is to be ensured. This is especially so in the case of Islamabad, which has been inducted into the strategic consensus concept for defence of US interests in the region.

Last week's disclosure by American columnist Jack Anderson that there exists a secret deal between the United States and Pakistan for both intelligence sharing and for the use of Pak air fields by US warplanes in times of crisis, has reinforced such speculations and has also raised a few vital questions.

The US has intelligence sharing arrangements with several countries, besides its NATO partners. With South Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, it has formal security relations and sharing of intelligence has become a part of the overall military coordination.

With Israel exchange of intelligence information was formalised in March 1981 when the two signed a strategic cooperation pact.

The US-Pak intelligence sharing adds a new dimension to Pakistan's role both vis-a-vis India and the Gulf region.

Pakistan enjoys the distinction of being the only non-aligned country (besides Cuba and Vietnam), which has a substantial number of its military personnel serving outside the country's national territory. Pakistan has 30,000 active military personnel serving abroad, nearly all of them in the West Asian region.

The Pakistan military also has strong linkages with several Arab states besides Saudi Arabia and its intelligence on the Gulf states, including its all-important neighbour Iran is obviously good, which probably the US hopes to benefit from.

What would Pakistan get from the US in return for such excellent information on the Arabs and the Iranians? Will Pakistan be given access to US intelligence data drawn from a variety of sources including data from the US Indian Ocean satellite, which monitors round the clock the entire Indian landmass and adjoining waters? This remains to be seen.

CSO: 4600/1523

SOVIET OFFICIAL WRITES ON TRADE WITH INDIA

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 22 Jan 84 p 5

[Text] The Soviet Union is willing to extend credit terms to India's private firms which want to purchase equipment and machines from the country, reports UNI.

This was stated by Mr N Smelyakov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade, in an interview to the Soviet Land, a Soviet embassy publication in Delhi.

In principle, he added, the Soviet Union was also ready to enter into buy-back arrangements with the Indian private sector if it agreed to buy Soviet equipment and technology

The credit and other terms which would be extended would be the "best", he was quoted as saying.

Mr Smelyakov had participated in an Indo-Soviet seminar organised by the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) in Delhi on Friday.

Mr Smelyakov pointed out that the Soviet Union was already providing credits for a period of 10 years at five-six per cent interest to Indian importers.

Asked how the trade between the two countries could be balanced if the Indian private sector brought Soviet equipment and machinery on a large-scale he said the Soviet Union was willing to buy more of the traditional items India exported.

The "Soviet Land" also reported that the Minister saw possibilities for larger exports of Indian agricultural items to the USSR.

On the "rupee payment system", Mr Smelyakov said it benefited both India and the Soviet Union, adding that it had ensured that "we do not depend on the world trading system with its crisis and fluctuations."

The opinion about the rupee system, Mr Smelyakov said, had emerged out of the many discussions between Indian and Soviet authorities on the subject.

If, however, the rupee payment is given up, "there would be a drastic fall in Soviet purchases from India."

Mr Smelyakov said he and his delegation would visit a number of plants, firms and corporations to see what their requirements were.

He said he had submitted a list to the Indian Government stating what the Soviet Union had been purchasing from India and what it had to offer. This, he said, would help evaluate the possibilities for further export of machines and equipment to India.

CSO: 4600/1519

INDIAN, WEST GERMAN COMMERCE MINISTERS MEET

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 7 Jan 84 p 7

[Text] India was on Friday invited to take advantage of favourable international trading conditions and make a thrust to boost her exports to West Germany, reports PTI.

During a meeting with Commerce Minister V P Singh visiting West German Minister for Economics Dr Otto Graf Lambsdorff said sales at this year's Hanover Fair where India has been given the place of a 'partner country' could help reduce the trade imbalance between the two countries.

The two Ministers agreed that the world trading atmosphere was becoming congenial with recession lifting. At the outset Dr Lambsdorff said he was strongly opposed to the ethics of using the instrument of protectionism against Third World countries.

Dr Lambsdorff said investment within Germany was picking up and this should help investments abroad. He had during his meeting with Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, emphasised his country's interest in more direct German private investments in the form of joint ventures.

It may be with minority participation, but joint ventures were the best form of transfer of technology he added.

In this connection he had urged the Prime Minister to look into some of the procedures for approvals which caused delays.

He said there were no political reasons behind the sluggish growth of German investments in India in recent years. India was pursuing a liberal investment policy and though the bureaucracy was a hindrance, German companies had no major complaints.

Dr Lambsdorff commended prudent management of India's fiscal policies and said the country's purchasing power had created adequate credit worthiness for it in the world. Consequently, many countries were now interested in industrial collaboration and investments in India.

Mr Singh suggested a study which could identify areas being vacated by developed countries which developing countries could take up with appropriate intermediate technology. India was keen on shifting the emphasis from traditional to non-traditional exports.

West Germany is India's second largest trading partner in western Europe after the United Kingdom. The turnover had gone up from Rs 899.67 crore in 1978-79 to Rs 1161.57 crores in 1982-83, with a deficit of 452 crore against India. In the first nine months of 1983 the turnover was of the order of Rs 991 crore.

On the non-aligned nations proposal for an international conference on money and finance, Dr Lambsdorff explained that his country was not against it, though along with the US 'We are not with it'. However, if there was a conference FRG would participate in it.

In his discussions with the Finance and Commerce Ministers, Dr Lambsdorff said he had assured his country's opposition to protectionism. He regretted the US decision to cut down its IDA contributions.

CSO: 4600/1450

INDIA

REPORTAGE ON INDIRA GANDHI'S INTERVIEW

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] PRIME Minister Indira Gandhi has said that the American decision to reduce its contribution to the International credit institutions is a major problem in Indo-US relations as "it seems to have been done in a way to hit India", report PTI, UNI.

"It hits us so we can't help feeling it" the Prime Minister said in an interview with the Associated Press.

Since China was now a member of the IDA the amount available had to be divided and 'so it is India's assistance that is cut' she regretted.

Referring to India's recent request for a loan from the Asian Development Bank, Mrs Gandhi said "we were told that you can't have a new person on the list, whereas they had admitted China on the other," Mrs Gandhi said.

"We don't want China to feel we are standing in their way or rivaling them but this sort of thing doesn't create a very good impression," she added.

Double Standards

Mrs Gandhi said that the United States cultivates dictatorships around the world while displaying indifference and double standards toward India.

She had said that India's security is threatened as never before. 'we're surrounded. Besides Pakistan the whole Indian Ocean is all area of tension. There are problems in all the neighbouring countries, some of which will certainly get help from abroad," she said.

Asked if such tensions are aggravated by the Soviet Union, Mrs Gandhi said, "the Soviet Union, has got its own policies and strategies. But I don't feel it is in their interests--as they see their interests--that tension should grow here. They certainly would not like Western influence in a country like Afghanistan, and that's why they are there."

Denying that India is dependent on arms from the Soviet Union, Mrs Gandhi said, "when we need it and we get it on attractive terms, we take it, but it's

not binding us in any way ... we can buy it from any country, as we are now, but sometimes it does come more expensive from other countries", Mrs Gandhi added, referring to current Indian moves to diversity, with purchases from Britain, France and West Germany.

Justifying India's purchases of Soviet weapons, Mrs Gandhi said "it's for a good reason that either we pay in (Indian) rupees, it's easier for us, or because they are willing to make things here and sometimes willing to buy them back.

Not Anti-US

"I don't want to sound as if I am anti-US, because I am not at all," she said.

"I greatly admire much of what's being done there (US)...and I've many American friends," she continued. "But the Administration talks of democracy but actually whom does it help? They help dictatorships of one kind or another."

Asked if by dictatorships she meant countries getting US military aid like Pakistan, the Philippines and South Korea, Mrs Gandhi agreed and added, "and in Africa also you know, Latin America and so on."

As a result she and several other government leaders feel frustrated. "We're trying to keep our country democratic, but what do you get for it in terms of better relations with Western democracies?" she said.

The Prime Minister doubted very much that her good personal rapport with President Ronald Reagan, whom she has met three times, could make much impact on improving US-Indian relations which "I would say could be better."

Mrs Gandhi said her cordial relations with both Mr Reagan and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher are "entirely on a personal basis. From the point of view of policy, as you know, their views are entirely opposed to ours."

Pak Build-Up

Restating her objections to modern US arms for Pakistan, Mrs Gandhi said, "in some areas, Pakistan is well, ahead of us in weaponry. We can't possibly object to America... Giving Pakistan what it is in need of, but we feel they are being armed to an extent which is well beyond their need".

"They say it's because of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, but the guns are pointing towards us and not towards Afghanistan".

"And this has happened once before," Mrs Gandhi said, referring to the use of American arms by Pakistan against India in the 1965 war.

Kashmir Violence

Asked about the last week's violence in the Kashmir valley, Mrs Gandhi described her party workers' resort to blockade and strike tactics as a reaction to injustice and attacks by others and disassociated herself from any violence.

It was in desperation that Congress workers staged protests and blockades in Kashmir, she said. "I might not have given advice" for such tactics, she said, "but they feel you are sitting in Delhi, you are not protecting us. We are getting beaten up... so we have to protect ourselves."

"Our party is not like a communist party which is highly disciplined... we just don't have that kind of structure," Mrs Gandhi said. "Everybody decides more or less what they think is good for them"

CSO: 4600/1523

GANDHI ADDRESSES NATIONAL INTEGRATION COUNCIL

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 22 Jan 84 pp 1, 7

[Text] PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI ON SATURDAY SOUGHT THE CO-OPERATION OF THE OPPOSITION ON THE ISSUES LIKE NATIONAL UNITY, COMMUNAL HARMONY AND FIGHT AGAINST ALL KINDS OF VIOLENCE, WHILE WINDING UP THE DAY-LONG DISCUSSIONS AT THE NATIONAL INTEGRATION COUNCIL WHICH MET IN THE CAPITAL AFTER THREE LEARS.

She reiterated that the doors were open for negotiations with the Akalis on their outstanding demands of greater share in the Ravi Beas waters and territorial readjustments, but she made it clear that the Centre would have no compromise on basic issues like compromise on basic issues like

The Prime Minister firmly denies the charge of some of the Opposition leaders and non-Congress-I Chief Ministers that the Centre was trying to destabilise the non Congress-I governments. She said she condemned the toppling game and had never instigated it.

The meeting, which lasted nine and half hours, witnessed a cross section of national political and social leaders present at one forum. There were some tense moments and occasionally quite a few sharp exchanges but most of the time it was a lively thoughtful debate a participant said later.

The Opposition leaders, particularly the Chief Ministers belonging to the non-Congress-I parties, made some remarks on the Centre-State relations and charged the Centre with attempts to dislodge their governments. This of course provoked some equally sharper rebuttals from the Congress-I Chief Ministers and even Mrs Gandhi interrupted an Opposition Chief Minister to say: 'I am not interested in the toppling game'.

At the meeting, which was attended by over 50 of the 56 members, there was general consensus over various issues. The issues, where there was general consensus, were summed up by an official spokesman as:

--It was timely and significant and should be held more frequently. The responsibility for promoting national integration did not lie only with the Government but also in an equal measure on leaders of political parties and citizens.

--The effort all along should be to root out needless mistrust among people.

--The planning process should be made more efficient and speedy to root out the backwardness among people. In this context, the Prime Minister asserted that the Centre for its own sake desired the States to be strong but a perspective had to be kept in raising regional demands.

--Wrongdoers should be segregated and the administrations geared up to make them capable for speedy anticipatory action in trouble-prone areas.

--Better and continuing social relations should be promoted among communities and between the Union and State Governments.

Mrs Gandhi's specific reference to Punjab followed sharp criticism by many Opposition parties that the Government had been dilly-dallying about the problem and in the meanwhile, communal tensions and violence were mounting.

The Prime Minister said that the one positive outcome of the deliberations was the unanimous disapproval of violence against minorities, women and Scheduled Castes.

Despite differences on several other issues, it was a welcome sign that all parties were agreed on the need to put such violence down.

She said: "We should concentrate on what we can cooperate in, in spite of differences. There is violence in the individual and society. But the whole purpose of civilisation is to encourage the better instincts".

For effectively tackling the communal problem, Mrs Gandhi suggested the setting up of minority cells in all the States. Such cells should meet periodically to review the situation in communally sensitive areas.

Education should be oriented to instil attitudes of friendship and acceptance of others.

Besides the Prime Minister and the Home Minister, 32 members participated in what turned out to be a marathon meeting of the council after a gap of three years.

Earlier, inaugurating the meeting, Mrs Gandhi underlined the need for a vigorous intellectual and moral campaign against communalism, casteism, regionalism and linguistic fanaticism.

The country has had such a campaign to promote the concept of India and of 'Indianness' but today its momentum was evidently lost, she said.

Mrs Gandhi said in the Indian situation, the real basis of national integration should be widely-shared goals and values, commitment to 'Indianness', without sacrificing the identity of sub-cultures.

The Prime Minister said traditional Indian trait of Religious festivals which used to be observed by people of all communities, had in many areas become sources of tension and concern.

She said national integration did not mean unity of language, ideology of religion, it was as had been proclaimed many times, unity in diversity. Her own view on the subject, as enshrined in the Constitution was that no Indian should feel unwanted or unwelcomed to any part of the country.

Mrs Gandhi said unfortunately attention was usually narrowly focussed on tensions and incidents of violence ignoring the longer term processes which made for integration or a feeling of togetherness.

Consensus Needed

The Prime Minister said the country had to guard against any factor which weakened its unity and for that it had to develop a broad national consensus on how to go about it. She said ideas, processes, practices and tactics for any narrow advantage which encouraged divisive sentiments had to be discouraged and curbed.

She said it was a question of broad political convictions and attitudes. Even more important was action in the various fields political social educational and the media. The challenges of communalism, casteism, regionalism and linguistic fanaticism could not be met by laws alone, she stressed.

Mrs Gandhi said it was important to emphasise the heritage of the nation's freedom movement. She had written to Chief Ministers in this connection and the Union Education Ministry was also working on this.

The Prime Minister said the international environment and the ploy of its forces must also be studied in the context of the maintenance of national unity. The threat was to the whole system and not just to one political party or person, she said adding that it was very wrong to interpret this as a war psychosis.

Mrs Gandhi said it was important - was an integral part of national integration. The problem of integration must also be seen in its socio-economic context. A faster rate of growth and development was essential to contain and dissolve tensions, she said.

Addressing the meeting, Mr Sethi called for a ceaseless and tenacious struggle for preserving national integration and upholding the ideals embodied in the Constitution.

Sounding a word of caution about the assertive manifestation of divisive forces, Mr Sethi said the fact that the people, by and large, are totally averse to communal and sectarian approach "gives us confidence and strength in our fight for national unity".

Mr Sethi said that the Government had been continuously vigilant on the communal front and a number of specific suggestions had been made to the State Governments to take care of factors which were seen to be associated with communal disturbances.

He said the State Governments had been advised in the matter of safeguards for protecting the interests of minority and communities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and specific measures had been suggested to the State Governments to ensure that the weaker sections of society were adequately protected against harassment and oppression.

Recalling certain specific measures enunciated recently by the Prime Minister for the welfare of minorities, Mr Sethi said the Prime Minister's suggestions had been commended to all the State Governments and their implementation was being monitored.

"The Government is aware of problems of minority communities and is taking steps to ensure that they participate in all aspects of national life with pride and full sense of security", the Home Minister said.

Mr Sethi said that since education had undoubtedly a vital role to play in the sphere of promoting emotional integration, a number of specific programmes for children and youth were being pursued by the Education Ministry. Those programmes envisaged holding of youth camps, screening of films and organisation of exhibitions and were aimed at developing all aspects of a student's personality. The Ministry had also taken up evaluation of text-books on a national level.

The Home Minister said that steps were being taken to train teachers and equip them with suitable material and literature. Another programme that had been taken up was the promotion on national integration through community singing.

CSO: 4600/1519

CRITICISM OF STATE GOVERNMENTS 'ELECTIONEERING'

Madras THE HINDU in English 8 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, Jan. 7--Despite her strong criticism of their actions, the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, is not contemplating any moves against non-Congress (I) Governments with well established majorities in States like West Bengal or Jammu and Kashmir, according to highly placed sources here.

A careful analysis of her recent pronouncements, it is pointed out, will indicate quite clearly that she has taken care to temper her strictures with the reassuring qualification that it was for the people to decide whether they have had enough of this "misrule".

The strident tone of her criticism is attributable largely to the psychology of the approaching Parliamentary elections. But Mrs. Gandhi cannot be unaware of the adverse impact of any precipitate Central action against Mr. Jyoti Basu's Ministry in West Bengal or Dr. Farooq Abdullah's rule in Jammu and Kashmir, not to speak of the non-Congress (I) Governments in the two southern States. As part of her pressure tactics against them, she will certainly keep on intensifying her attacks on these State Governments if only to keep them on the defensive and prevent them from lining up actively with other Opposition parties to pose a bigger challenge to her during the next elections.

Partymen's reports: The Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. B. K. Nehru, has been cautioning the Prime Minister not to place much credence on the reports she receives from her own partymen in the State, who have been either exaggerating the defiant attitude of Dr. Abdullah or the anti-Indian activities of his National Conference.

But the same cannot be said about the West Bengal Governor, Mr. A. P. Sharma, an ineffective politician with no administrative experience, who has been taking a political view of the alleged sins of omission and commission by the marxist Government. He has tended to go along with those who give an anti-Congress (I) twist to everything that is done or not done by it.

A sad feature of the Congress (I)'s hysterical campaign against these two State Governments is that the official agencies at the Centre which are

supposed to keep the Prime Minister and the Home Minister informed of the happenings in West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir have been taking an equally warped view to please those in authority in Delhi. The result is that with her numerous sources of information the Prime Minister has no means of getting a correct picture of the developments there.

Toppling bid: But the Congress (I) does not seem to be inhibited by similar fears of an adverse public reaction against the party's thinly disguised attempts to topple the Ramakrishna Hegde Government in Karnataka, because of the feeling that it cannot go to the polls with any measure of confidence during the next Parliamentary elections, unless it has at least two of the four southern States on its side. The tenuous majority of this Government has been encouraging the Congress (I) to go ahead with this gamble by openly encouraging defections.

At the same time, the Prime Minister has been careful not to give the impression that she is also out to pull down Mr. N. T. Rama Rao's Government in Andhra Pradesh, where the Congress (I) is still riven by its own internal squabbles. So she has not been jumping to the conclusion that any decline in NTR's popularity would restore automatically the credibility of her party in the State.

CSO: 4600/1451

MANEKA GANDHI TELLS MANCH ELECTION PLANS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 9 Jan 84 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Jan. 8.—The Rashtriya Sanjay Manch will contest about 200 of the 540 Lok Sabha seats in the coming General Elections, some 45 of them in the country's most populous State, Uttar Pradesh, Mrs Maneka Gandhi, president of the Manch, told a Press conference here today.

She said after a two-day meeting of the national executive committee of the Manch, that it was gearing itself up to participate in the poll, which she thought was likely to be held in December.

She said she herself would contest from the Amethi Lok Sabha constituency in Uttar Pradesh. When asked if she had chosen to do so after Mr Rajiv Gandhi, who currently held the constituency, had been "projected at the recent Calcutta Congress (I) plenary session as the future leader of the nation". Mrs Maneka Gandhi replied, "I decided to contest from Amethi a year ago and I declared so a year ago, not because I want to take on somebody, but just because it happens to be my husband's constituency".

Asked if the Sanjay Vichar Manch would put up a candidate against Mrs Indira Gandhi in the coming elections, Mrs Maneka Gandhi replied that the Sanjay Vichar Manch was at this time busy with selection of the constituencies it would contest, and the candidates that it would put up in those constituencies. "If one of these happens to be a constituency

that the Prime Minister would also fight from, it will be our fortune or misfortune to contest against her."

From the account in the Press release on the meeting of the national executive committee, it appeared that the Sanjay Manch was trying to play a big role in the coming elections. The Press release said that the Manch had been "widely accepted" since it was started in April, 1983.

Mrs Maneka Gandhi said that the Manch had come to the conclusion that it already had a good base in U.P. and that most of the people in the country wanted the emergence of a new and vital force in political life.

It appeared from the remarks Mrs Maneka Gandhi made at her Press conference, that she was not regarding the Sanjay Manch as a party of the Opposition, but as another Congress Party.

The Manch will not, merge with any Opposition party, or have electoral alliance with other parties of the Opposition. Mrs Maneka Gandhi said "there can be electoral alliances at local levels", but no alliance at the national level. There also could be electoral understanding with others, but only on the basis of a common working programme which was based on the Sanjay Manch manifesto.

Mrs Maneka Gandhi said she would not attend the coming Opposition conclave in Calcutta, nor had she been invited to it.

CSO: 4600/1456

SHIFT SEEN IN CONGRESS-I STAND ON EXTREMISTS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Jan 84 p 4

[Text] CHANDIGARH, Jan 22 (UNI)--The Centre should not ignore the willingness of the Akali leaders for negotiations on their demands as this would weaken the hand of the Congress-I and strengthen the sense of discrimination among the Sikhs, a study warns.

The study, "Punjab crisis: context and trends," by the Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development here, says the deadlock would not only isolate the Akali moderates but also reinforce fear psychosis and a sense of persecution of a community in the State.

It suggests the formulation of a long-term strategy even at the expense of foregoing short-term electoral and other gains to solve the crisis. There is need for the left and non-communal parties to evaluate their present and past electoral alliances to counter forces operating to increase their political and economic powers, it says.

It says the acceptance of religious demands by the Centre was an attempt to shelve the real issues, like demands for more autonomy and the river waters disputes. This made it difficult for Akalis to mobilise support for their economic demands and to bargain for a share in political power.

Shift in Cong-I Policy

The study says the Congress-I had shifted its stand from a policy of accommodation of the moderates to that of appeasement of extremists with a desire to contain such elements. This was aimed at inducing a sense of confidence in the extremists which did not prove feasible since the demands of extremists could not be met with.

The Congress-I's shift in policy has only been an "ad hoc answer" to the various problems facing the State, the study says.

The study, however, suggests that the short-term solution to the problem would be to manoeuvre the "conformist-communalist group", (represented by the 'Akhand Kirtani Jatha' and the 'Dam dami khalsa, advocating universalisation of the Sikh faith) against joining hands with the ranks represented by the Dal

Khalsa and the outlawed National Council of Khalistan or the religious fundamentalists in the Akali Dal.

Elaborating on the theory, the study says that during the 70s, three parallel tendencies surfaced in Sikh politics: the conformist-communalists, the fundamentalists and the incremental-communalists or the Akali Dal party which advocated the theory that gains should be distributed on communal lines.

The study says these tendencies are now coexisting and reinforcing each other. Till 1962, master Tara Singh contained the Sikh fundamentalists, separatists and moderates while Sant Fateh Singh countered the extremists by political manoeuvring and the fundamentalists with his charisma.

After Sant Fateh Singh's successive political leadership followed the policy of confrontation. Within the Akali Dal there was a decline in religious charisma and the fundamentalists and ilke-minded forces threw up their leadership and demands the study says.

CSO: 4600/1523

TEXT OF OPPOSITION NOTE TO SINGH PUBLISHED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 8 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Leaders of eight Opposition parties, including former Prime Minister Charan Singh, on Saturday met President Zail Singh and appealed to him to use his good offices to prevent the Centre's 'menacing threat' to destabilise non-Congress-I Governments in Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka and West Bengal.

In a memorandum handed over to the President during their 30-minute meeting, the Opposition leaders urged him to preserve the democratic spirit of the country's federal polity. They warned that if the present situation persisted, it would imperil the future of democracy.

Besides Mr Charan Singh, the delegation included Mr Samar Mukherjee (CPI-M), Mr Tridib Choudhary (RSP), Mr Madhu Dandavate (Janata) Mr Indrajit Gupta (CPI) Mr Dharma Bir Sinha (Cong-S), Mr Chandrajit Yadav (Janwadi) and Mr Saifuddin Soz (National Conference).

When the President suggested that the Opposition leaders should also talk to the Prime Minister about the issue they had raised, some of the leaders, it is understood, replied they had done so both in and outside Parliament but it had no effect.

It will be better if you talk to her some of them were stated to have replied.

The President, according to the Opposition leaders, then agreed to use his good offices.

The memo said if the situation persisted it will imperil the future of the forces of democracy.

Following is the text of the memo:

'Dear Rashtrapathiji, we are deeply perturbed over the recent trends of the Centre to destabilise the non-Congress-I Governments in various States and accord them discriminatory treatment in political as well as financial matters.

'What is happening in non-Congress-I States like Jammu and Kashmir Karnataka, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh bear ample testimony to our well-founded fears, Not a day passes without an inspired campaign of vilification against the non-Congress-I Governments. While a sensitive state like Jammu and Kashmir is bearing the brunt of such a campaign, Karnataka is witnessing a deep seated conspiracy by the Congress-I to use defections and money power as weapons to destabilise the Government of Karnataka. The Governments of West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh are facing growing discrimination by the Centre.

If the situation persists it will imperil the future of the forces of democracy.

We, therefore, appeal to you to use your good offices to prevent the menacing threat of destabilisation to the non-Cong-I Governments and preserve the democratic spirit of federal polity in the country.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely'.

CSO: 4600/1452

INDIA

AUTHORITIES CONCERNED OVER NAXALITE'S ESCAPE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 10 Jan 84 p 1

[Article by Chinu Panchal]

[Text] ALLAPALLI, (Gadchiroli), January 9--THE escape of the top Naxalite leader Kondapalli Sitaramaiah, from a hospital in Hyderabad last week is viewed with serious concern by the Maharashtra government, seized as it is with the problem of tackling extremists in this predominantly tribal district of Gadchiroli on the Maharashtra-Andhra Pradesh boundary.

The concern of the authorities is understandable, considering that followers of the Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) led by Sitaramaiah, constituting the "people's war" group have caused enough trouble for them.

A part of the district borders on Manthana taluka of Karimnagar district of Andhra Pradesh. The dense forest and hilly terrain provide the 30-odd Naxalites of Andhra Pradesh who come and go at their will with excellent cover. There is a strong possibility of Sitaramaiah arriving in this area and providing his active followers with leadership.

Higher Wages

The extremists have a powerful hold over the 300,000 tribals spread over roughly half the district comprising Sironcha, Aheri, Allapalli and Ettapalli talukas. This could be gauged from the fact that last year meek-looking Adivasis, employed for collecting tendu (bidi) leaves in the forest, struck work. They demanded higher wages than the normal Rs. 6.40 per day. Despite the deployment of over 400 armed men of the Special Reserve Police Force in order to brow beat them, the tribals did not budge. As a result the forest department suffered a loss in tendu leaf transaction last year.

Mr. Ratanakar Gaikwad, collector of Gadchiroli district, describes the present situation as "alarming", as the season (April-June) of collecting tendu leaves approaches. He says that if the government agrees to the rate asked for by the tribals, they would, under the influence of Naxalites, make further demands.

Mr. S. W. H. Naqvi, divisional forest officer, Sironcha, says that the Naxalites are encouraging tribals to violate forest laws and intimidate forest staff. Illegal felling of trees is on the increase. Therefore, the government could not agree to their demand for higher wages under pressure.

Situation Reviewed

To track down Naxalites and ease tension, Maharashtra's minister of state for home, Mr. Shivajirao Deshmukh, had announced in May in the state assembly that mounted police would be poseted in the region.

Unfortunately, this move only gave rise to humour. "There is already a problem of looking after the policemen in this region. How shall we look after their horses?" asked one police officer.

He added that at one stage the department seriously thought of inducting a dog squad. But that proposal was also dropped for obvious reasons.

Recently, there was a high-level meeting of ministers and senior officers of the concerned states in Aurangabad for reviewing the situation arising out of the Naxalite menace. It has taken two decisions aimed at thwarting the Naxalite influence and forcing them to come into the open.

As a first step, the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra was asked to close down its operations in some of the areas in this region, rendering over 10,000 tribals working on daily wages jobless and making them turn against the extremists.

Secondly, it was decided to do away with the system of appointing agents for the collection of tendu leaves, who in turn engaged tribals. This year the state government wants to see how the tribals react when it sticks to its offer of a daily wage of Rs. 6.40.

There are others who think that these measures would prove counter-productive. Already the Naxalite leaders are telling tribals to resist the government pressure, reminding them that they have not starved even without the Forest Development Corporation.

Even one senior government officer says that this is essentially a socio-economic-political problem. Not a single political party, much less the ruling Congress, has come forward to fight the Naxalites at the political level and work in the region. Any attempt at solving it with the help of the police is bound to boomerang.

Forest Cover

The Naxalite group, including four women in the age group of 25-30, has been operating in this region for the last three to four years. A good many of them are those who have jumped bail in Andhra Pradesh and taken shelter in the dense forest. The dialect of Madia tribals is akin to Telugu and that has proved quite useful in overcoming the language barrier by the Naxalites.

They began by staging "burra kathas" (folk theatre) and folk songs to the wide-eyed tribals. Once the rapport was established, the extremists took interest in the tribals' problems, mainly to prevent harassment by the forest staff. They have formed a tribal organisation called the Rayatwadi Sangham with units practically in every village. So powerful is their hold in the area that forest-based industrialists in Chandrapur buy peace by agreeing to the demands of Naxalites. One paper mill is reported to have agreed to procure firearms for them to make the Adivasis continue to take part in loading operations.

The Naxalites, including women, move in squads of five to six. (One of them is a local tribal woman who is said to be an outcaste). They are dressed in olive-green uniforms and carry country-made pistols and 12-bore guns. They hold meetings usually at night and make it a point not to stay at one place for long.

Teacher Attacked

Two years ago, they showed their wrath on a teacher whom they suspected to be a police informer. They chopped off one of his limbs and his photograph was shown to tribals to make their message loud and clear. In Ettapalli, one tehsildar was thrashed two months ago for molesting an Adivasi girl. The official, wanting to cover up the incident, did not report to the police. But, finally, the district headquarters came to know about it and he was prosecuted on a charge of molestation.

The forest officer, however, felt shy to admit that his staff was doing things at the bidding of Naxalites. But he pointed out that for nearly half the year his staff, including forest guards and rangers, were cut off from the headquarters. They were defenceless against those who were armed and bent on using firearms.

Mr. K. Subramanyam, superintendent of police, said that so far there had been only one encounter between the police and one squad of Naxalites in October. But the extremists had gone deep into the forest after the police opened fire. After the escape of Sitaramiah, the police have intensified the vigil in the area.

CSO: 4600/1458

PAKISTANI SHELLING CALLED 'GIFT' TO INDIA

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 7 Jan 84 p 9

[Text] JAMMU, Jan. 6--General Zia-ul-Haq's New Year gift to the people of India has come in the shape of resumed firing and shelling by the Pakistani Army on some of the strategically important and vulnerable Indian posts and pickets situated on the 760-km-long line of actual control in Jammu and Kashmir.

This unprovoked action with the help of sophisticated weapons, recently acquired from the USA, China and other countries, was aimed particularly at Army posts located in the Bhimber Gali area of Rajouri-Poonch sectors of Jammu region.

Much strategic importance is attached to the Bhimber Gali area by the Indian as well as Pakistani defence authorities. It was through some secret routes in this area that the Pakistani Army had smuggled into Jammu and Kashmir armed infiltrators during the 1965 and 1971 conflicts.

This correspondent was among the journalists for whom the Defence Ministry had organized a tour of the forward areas early this month. A General of the Indian security forces posted in the area asked me: "Would you like to joint our jawans and officers who are forced to celebrate their New Year Eve under cover of Pakistani armed forces' continuous firing and shelling?" A visit to some of these pickets was arranged with escorts.

However, neither the General nor any of his officers could explain the reason behind the Pakistani action, especially at a time when Mrs Gandhi addressing the 77th plenary session of the Congress (I) in Calcutta had made it clear that "we want peace with all our neighbours, including Pakistan".

According to a Major, in charge of one of these pickets bearing the brunt of the firings, one of the reasons for this demonstration of hostility could be frustration following the failure to smuggle infiltrators into India territory, since all their secret routes had been plugged.

The jawans and officers of the Indian security forces posted in the area admitted that they had been returning the fire all the time, but this, was only to let them feel that "we are also vigilant and alert".

RAJIV TELLS EFFECTS OF BENGAL LEFT FRONT ON INDUSTRY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Jan 84 p 4

[Text] BAMNIPAL (Orissa), Jan 19 (PTI)--General secretary of the AICC-I Rajiv Gandhi said today that no new industry was coming up and the existing ones were becoming sick or shifting from West Bengal under the CIP-(M) Government during the last few years.

In contrast when the State was under Congress rule, industry had flourished there, Mr Gandhi said.

He was laying the foundation stone for Rs 48-crore charge-chrome plant of the OMC Alloys, a subsidiary of the State-owned Orissa Mining Corporation here, 130 kms from Bhubaneswar.

The plant with an annual capacity of 50,000 tonnes is the first of its kind in public sector in the country.

This cent per cent export oriented project is being implemented in collaboration with a consortium of two public sector foreign companies--Voest-Alpine Ag of Austria and Outokumpu of Finland.

The plant is scheduled to be commissioned by February, 1985.

Mr Gandhi said that the kind of industry that should be set up in the area should first be carefully identified. He would prefer the setting up of an industry which would attract ancillaries providing employment opportunities to the local people.

The industrial units occasionally face difficulties in the remote backward districts, but that should not deter them because the main objective was to uplift the tribal, Harijan and other backward people.

With the moving of the industries to those areas, other facilities like electricity, water supply and communications would follow for the benefit of the people, he added.

Mr Gandhi, however, regretted that the local people in the area did not derive the full benefit of the employment opportunities opening up with the establishment of industries.

They were not prepared adequately for the new activities connected with the industries and he opportunities were being availed of by the people from outside. This problem, he said, would have to be tackled.

The country was facing challenges from outside, Mr Gandhi said and exhorted the people to strengthen the hands of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Only a strong Centre under the Congress-I leadership could effectively meet any threat to the country, he said.

Orissa Chief Minister J B Patnaik said that the project which had been undertaken with the blessings of the Prime Minister, would provide employment to 4000 people

CSO: 4600/1514

INDIA

ASSAM REBELS FORGE LINKS WITH OTHER EXTREMISTS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Jan 84 p 9

[Text] IMPHAL, Jan. 9--The Assam extremists and movement leaders have established regular links with the rebels in Manipur and Nagaland according to army sources here.

The extremists in Assam, allegedly led by the chief convener of the volunteer force of All-Assam Students' Union, Mr Joynath Sarma, have forged links with those in Manipur and Nagaland. The documents seized recently by the Army from underground hideouts in Manipur have revealed this.

A large number of firearms and explosives seized from the extremists in Nagaland and Manipur were exhibited for the benefit of the people. The seized arms ranged from antiquated and vintage pistols to sophisticated revolvers and rifles. A good number of the arms bore German, Czech and Belgian markings.

When asked for the documents which had allegedly proved the link between the Assam extremists and those in Nagaland and Manipur, the sources said that they had been handed over to the Assam Government and were available at Dispur.

The documents also revealed that 15 Assamese youths were undergoing guerrilla training in camps of the outlawed National Socialist Council of Nagaland in northern Burma.

The selfstyled Foreign Secretary of the NSCN, Mr Angolous Shinray, carrying a reward of Rs 25,000 was still maintaining contacts with the extremists in Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura and Mizoram. The documents revealed that Mr Sarma, who was also an executive member of AASU, had met some of the prominent underground leaders of Manipur and Nagaland on several occasions. Mr Sarma, who was arrested recently at Dimapur, is presently under detention in Nagaland.

Dimapur, the principal town of Nagaland, is believed to be the meeting place of all extremist leaders. Punjabi extremists are also believed to have established a contact with those in the north-east in an attempt to procure explosives.

PAPERS REPORT, REACT TO PAKISTAN GENERAL'S ARTICLE

Summary of Article

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 23 Jan 84 pp 1, 7

[Text] A Pakistan General says "India's growing aspiration for a world power status" had 'created a dangerous situation' and expressed the hope that India will throw up a political leadership' which does not entertain such ambitions.

Lt General Akram Khan, a key member of President Zia-ul-Haq's think-tank, says that 'it is very much possible that only the present Government of India feels committed to the rash ambition of seeking greatness for itself'.

Observers believe that General Akram Khan's views, enunciated in considerable details in a seven-part article in MUSLM, a daily newspaper from Islamabad, betray the minds of Pakistan's ruling military junta and reveal the regime's short-term and long term goals.

General Akram Khan, currently Director General of Pakistan's Institute of Strategic Studies, has made a vicious attack on the Prime Minister. He says Mrs Gandhi hopes "to be remembered as a Napoleon" and is 'hostile to any power which refused to accept India's pre-eminent position and in this the chief culprit is Pakistan about whom the Indian Prime Minister has a fixation bordering on the pathological'.

Describing Mrs Gandhi as 'the architect of the upheaval of 1971 which culminated in the dismemberment of Pakistan' General Akram Khan says that 'the hostility which bedevils Pakistan exists more strongly in the minds of Mrs Gandhi than of other leaders'. 'Pakistan stands in the path of India's march to its goal of greatness' he adds.

According to him 'if at the time of Partition, the sub-continent has been divided into half a dozen States, India proper comprising nothing more than the Hindi belt, that is Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, ruled from Delhi, India would have been no more important in the eyes of the world than Pakistan'. He claims that India's aims and aspirations have outstripped its capabilities and cracks have appeared in its relations between India and political structure'.

'The main factor in the Indian spirit or psyche which gives substance and strength to Indian policy is the urge to glory' the General adds. 'With its image of itself as potentially the greatest power of Asia, eclipsing even China whose strength and progress it finds irritating, India seeks to be a great power and wants the world to know it and say it's so'.

'India's growing aspirations of world power status and keen urge to play what she regards as her historical role, strengthened by the events of 1971, have created a more dangerous situation in South Asia, a situation which foreshadows violence', he says.

The General has coined a new phrase--the Indira doctrine, General Akram Khan says (a) 'India would not accept any external intervention in the South Asia region with anti-Indian implications; (b) India would not tolerate any regional country calling for external assistance with an anti-Indian bias and (c) Any South Asian state, requiring external assistance to solve internal problems, must first ask for assistance from regional countries including India. India's exclusion from regional assistance requested by a South Asian country would be regarded as an anti-Indian move on the part of the Government concerned'.

'The doctrine implies that India is the dominant power in South Asia' the General adds. He compares it with Monroe Doctrine and the Brezhnev doctrine.' According to General Akram Khan 'if Indian chauvinists who believe in the doctrine have their way, (a) Pakistan would be required to reduce its military strength of a level where it would have no capability of resisting an advance by the Indian army; (b) It would entail abandoning our security agreement with US, which has hitherto been an important element in our military preparedness to face aggressors; (c) As a result, we would be left defenceless against any attack across our borders. We would not only be at the mercy of India but also unable to protect our national integrity against such military pygmies as Afghanistan; (4) We will not decide our own foreign policy, or for that matter, our domestic policy, because that will be done for us by India.

The Pakistan General is of the view that India's aspiration of greatness is a reaction to 'the millinea of defeat and disgrace for the Hindu' who could not withstand the assault of Islam and for the space of a thousand years was forced to accept a backward position'.

He says that the 'smaller States in South Asia were not in a position to dispute India's claim (to preeminence). 'But Pakistan stood apart as the one exception which would not acknowledge Indian greatness or superiority in any way'. The general goes on to add that 'We never believed that we were one-fourth of India, as indeed we were at the time of Partition, or that we were one-eighth of India as we have been after the loss of East Pakistan; We regarded ourselves as the successors of Muslim rulers of India who, in spite of being a minority, ruled over a large population of Hindus and the sub-continent. We claimed the legacy of Muslim sultans and emperors of India and were not about to submit to the pre-eminence of the Hindus'.

'If Pakistan, as smaller country, would not accept India as pre-eminent then the rest of the world was not likely to regard India as such'.

The General declares that 'India is not one country; it has never enjoyed the unity which is the hallmark of a nation state'. 'The peoples which can be regarded as being potentially separatist are the Sikhs, the Dravidians (the four southern States of the peninsula) and the North Eastern peoples, (the Assamese, the Nagas, the Mizos, the Tripurans)', he adds.

According to him 'the objections to the two-nation theory on the part of India are not because of Pakistan but because of the possible snowballing effect of such a theory. If the people of the sub-continent can comprise two nations, why not three? Why not four, or five or six?'

'Time is in our favour' General Akram Khan tells his Pakistan audience because the problems with which the country (India) is beset in the eighties are becoming increasingly difficult to solve' and 'instead of going from strength to strength, India is going from weakness to weakness'.

Parliament Members React

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Pakistan Gen Akram Khan's "vicious anti-India" articles have provoked a strong reaction in the political circles with the Congress-I MPs denouncing it as a thesis for dismemberment of India, a programme which Islamabad has for long been pursuing in concert with the US.

A group of Cong-I MPs said in a statement on Monday that Gen Khan's thesis has confirmed Mrs Indira Gandhi's apprehensions that Pakistan was acquiring sophisticated arms with the twin objective of avenging its defeat in the Bangladesh war and of dismembering India in collaboration with the US

The MPs were commenting on a series of articles the Pakistan General wrote in a daily recently. A report on the series of his articles appeared in PATRIOT on Monday morning.

(See Editorial on page 2)

The MPs urged the Indian Press to give widest coverage to Gen Akram's articles and to initiate a national debate on the perilous implications of his pernicious views for India.

"We are confident, they said, that this will expose the Opposition leaders who seem to have ganged up with the forces of destabilisation and subversion and are conniving at their diabolical attempts to bring about dismemberment of India".

In a separate statement, Mr G C Bhattacharya, MP, (DSP), Mr Mahavir Prasad, Mr M R Krishna and some others said the articles had exposed not only the Washington Islamabad designs against India but also the hollowness of the allegations of some Opposition leaders that Mrs Gandhi's apprehensions over the threats to India were imaginary.

The statement called on all Left and democratic parties to give up their attitude of confrontation with Mrs Gandhi and cooperate with her nation's defence. They pointed out that the Pakistan General had in an oblique but sinister way identified Mrs Gandhi as an obstacle in the way of the US-Islamabad designs.

The eight Cong-I MPs went on to add, in their separate statement that Gen Akram Khan's thesis that India would have posed no problems to its neighbours had the Britishers further divided the sub-continent seemed to have been physically lifted from Mr Richard Nixon's recently published book called "Leaders" with the suggestion that the Indian people would have been much happier, if the British would have divided India into 12 parts, they said.

Gen. Akram Khan's venomous attack on Mrs Indira Gandhi and his blatantly communal distortion of Indian history where he said that Pakistan was the natural successor to the Muslim emperors and sultans who ruled over the Hindus for a thousand years should open the eyes of all the nationalist and secular forces in the country to the dangers to the unity, integrity and independence of India by neo imperialism and its fascist minions who are trying to balkanize the country by openly encouraging communal hatred and arming the secessionist and anti-national forces in some of our sensitive border States, the MPs added.

This calls for an explanation from the Opposition leaders in the country who have accused Mrs Gandhi of whipping up war psychosis against Pakistan and have been vying with each other in praising the dictatorial and bestial regime of the Military Junta which is crushing the Pakistanis under its military jack-boots with the support of American imperialism, the statement said.

The signatories to the statement are: K K Tiwari, B P Maurya, Gufram Azam, Sibte Razi, Zainul Basher, P M Syed, Mrs Margaret Alva and Kamaluddin Ahmed.

TIMES OF INDIA Analyst

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 25 Jan 84 p 8

[Article by Girilal Jain]

[Text]

IT cannot be seriously disputed that General Akram's recent articles "Shadows Over South Asia" in *The Muslim*, Islamabad, deserve the attention not only of Indian policy makers who would no doubt have read them but of commentators interested in the Pakistani perceptions of this country.

General Akram is of the Institute of Regional Studies in Islamabad. This cannot be a frightfully important position in itself. He is supposed to be close to General Zia-ul-Haq and may therefore be reflecting as well as influencing his thinking. But one cannot be too sure that this is the case. For Pakistan is not the kind of closed so-

ciety where only the big brother speaks and the others only echo what he says.

There is another difficulty. We do not know how representative the general is of those who shape and/or influence Pakistan's India policy. The whole tenor of his articles certainly goes against the spirit of what we have been told of the dominant mood among the Pakistani intelligentsia by those Indian journalists and commentators who have visited the neighbouring country. While they have said that Pakistanis have reconciled themselves to India's pre-eminence in South Asia, General Akram is at pains to emphasise that Pakistan can never accept such a claim by this country.

We face yet another problem in discussing the articles. For it is not quite clear whether General Akram holds mainly Mrs. Gandhi responsible for Pakistan's difficulties with India as he sees them or whether he thinks that it is committed to an anti-Pakistan position by virtue of being the kind of country it is.

'Urge To Glory'

In one of his articles sub-titled "Quest For Glory", he writes:

"The main factor in the Indian spirit or psyche which gives substance and strength to Indian policy is the urge to glory... a desire for recognition... with its image of itself as the greatest power of Asia, eclipsing even China... India seeks to be a great power and wants the world to know it and say so..."

"The Indian draws from history the strength and will needed to fulfil his grand design. He is the offspring of one of the greatest cultures the world has been privileged to see... the Hindu today, particularly the Brahmin (who rules India) is conscious of his heritage, takes pride in it, wishes to re-establish its glory..."

"This complex, related to the cultural (Hindu-Muslim) conflict of the past, has led to the status consciousness of India."

"The Indians regard themselves as the inheritors of the glory of British India which was the most powerful single unit of the British empire... "Nehru, having assumed the mantle of the British in India, saw his new India cast in the same glorious mould..."

In another article, however, he writes:

"... Mrs. Gandhi is hostile to any power which refuses to accept India's pre-eminent position and in this the chief culprit is Pakistan about whom the Indian prime minister has a fixation bordering on the pathological. She must strain every nerve to cut Pakistan down to size, to force it into a subservient position... she will allow no

hurdle or obstacle to deflect her from this purpose."

"It was Indira Gandhi who was the architect of the upheaval of 1971, who prepared the stage and finally sent in her army for the *coup de grace* which culminated in the disintegration of Pakistan."

"The hostility which bedevils relations between India and Pakistan and sustains India in its anti-Pakistan role exists more in the mind of the political leadership than the people of India who would gladly live in peace with Pakistan. And in the political leadership it exists more in the mind of Mrs. Gandhi than of other leaders, many of whom do not share her anti-Pakistan prejudice, not to the same degree."

An Alleged Doctrine

We can perhaps resolve this difficulty if we conclude that what General Akram is telling his leaders in Pakistan is that while all Hindus (who became "paragons of intrigue, subtlety, and cunning" during the period of the Muslim rule) are possessed by the ambition to become the greatest power in Asia, Mrs. Gandhi is the worst of us all. Thus while he is not wholly assured that a change of government in New Delhi will lead to a change of policy towards Pakistan, he does not rule out the possibility."

"It is very possible that only the present government of India feels committed to the rash ambition of seeking greatness for itself at the cost of the well-being of its neighbours... India will, we hope, throw up a political leadership which does not wish to sacrifice the peace and well-being of South Asia for its own selfish, egoistical ends," he writes in the final summing up.

But as soon as we have resolved this difficulty, whether satisfactorily or unsatisfactorily, we are confronted with still another. We are unable to figure out the provocation for the apparently carefully planned articles.

On the face of it, the provocation is the supposed enunciation by Mrs. Gandhi of "a new doctrine asserting India's right to interfere (in the affairs of its neighbours) and claiming what can only be called hegemony over South Asia--a new Indian doctrine of regional security." But has Mrs. Gandhi in fact enunciated such a doctrine?

Generak Akram sums up the so-called Indira doctrine as:

(a) "India will not accept any external intervention in the South Asian region with anti-Indian implication;

(b) "India will not tolerate any regional country calling for external assistance with an anti-Indian bias;

(c) "Any South Asian state, requiring external assistance to solve internal problems, must first ask for assistance from regional countries, including India. India's exclusion from regional assistance requested by a South Asian country for the solution of internal problems would be regarded as an anti-Indian move on the part of the government concerned."

To be fair to General Akram, he is not the criminal author of the proposition that Mrs. Gandhi's statement on developments in Pakistan and Sri Lanka constituted a new Indian doctrine of regional security *a la* the Monroe doctrine or the Brezhnev doctrine. This honour goes to some Indian commentators. That is, however, a relatively minor issue, the more pertinent being whether Mrs. Gandhi has said or done anything new. The answer must be in the negative.

India has regarded South Asia as one region ever since it achieved independence in 1947; it has been consistently opposed to interference in its affairs by all external powers, including China; that was the rationale of Mr. Nehru's op-

position to the U.S.-Pakistan security pact in 1953 and rejection of the U.S. offer of military assistance; if South Asia is one region, as it is in the Indian view, it follows that its members should in a difficulty and emergency turn to one another for assistance and not to foreign powers with very different interests and perspectives; and India has stood for democracy and respect for the rights of minorities, ethnic, linguistic and religious, both at home and abroad.

There can be a difference of opinion on whether South Asia is one region or only so many different countries. Indeed, the position of all countries in South Asia other than India has been, to say the least, ambivalent on the issue. They talk of the need for cooperation on a regional basis but lose no opportunity to bring in external powers in one way or another to offset the advantage India's size, resources and potentiality give it. India has not found a solution to this problem all these years and is not likely to find one in the future for the obvious reason that the two superpowers (and China) will not agree to keep out of this region, or, for that matter, any other where they consider their presence vital to their interest.

Wrong Results

That, however, is a different (and an old) problem. The issue for our immediate consideration is whether Mrs. Gandhi has enunciated a new doctrine. General Akram has offered bits of evidence which just do not add up. And surely it is rather odd that he should object to the Indian "interference" in Sri Lanka which President Jayewardene has accepted in his country's best interest and which no other great power has opposed for the same reason--that India's good offices can help narrow the gap between the Tamil-speaking Sri Lankans and the Sinhalese and thus save the island a prolonged upheaval.

Why then the outburst? We do not know and we do not wish to rush to any conclusions. We would only wish to make two points. First, if General Akram is addressing himself to us in India as well and wants us to know that Pakistan will not accept India's, to us natural, status, he has not told us anything which most of us have not known. And if he is appealing to those of us who have acquired a softness towards Pakistan, he might well have hurt his own and their cause. His formulations, if widely circulated, can help Mrs. Gandhi sell her present line better than she has managed to do so far.

Secondly, General Zia has conducted his peace offensive with a skill which would be the envy of experienced politicians. He has no reason to feel grateful to his friend.

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Jan 84 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text]

PAKISTAN'S military dictatorship would be most unlikely to have Lt.-Gen. Akram Khan as Director-General of the country's Institute of Strategic Studies were he to speak out of turn or not to reflect the junta's mind on India, the country the military establishment regards as the only adversary Pakistan may have to fight again. In a country where there is no press freedom for longer than 25 years Gen Akram Khan's seven-part violent attack on India would not have received the hospitality of the columns of the Islamabad newspaper without a nod from the junta to the journal. That is why what the General says merits attention of those who make policy in Delhi. The General's exegesis contains much bogus history. It is streaked through with the familiar hate theme from which the so-called philosophy of Pakistan has been derived. But this is not important. The Pakistan movement was based on falsehood and the country's historiography unfortunately continues that tradition. But Gen. Akram Khan should be taken seriously because he has warned of the danger ahead in India-Pakistan relations, a danger which many in this country, lulled by sentimentality, are apt to under-estimate.

The General has the deceptive clarity of the fanatic and the bigot. Pakistan, he argues, has the steadfastness of its assigned role, which is to uphold the legacy of Muslim domination over the subcontinent. It is not necessary to engage the General in an argument about how he reads Indian history and the falsity of his conclusions. More to the point is the military intellectual's view of the role Pakistan should play against India. Since Pakistan alone, in his estimate, has the strength and will to stop India from becoming the dominant power in South Asia, Islamabad must review the policy of reconciliation it has pursued lately because Delhi's ambitions, Gen. Akram Khan says, cannot be restrained unless it has received a "blow". The General has dwelt on the *casus belli* against India. With the neurosis which has marked Pakistan's hate policy towards this country, the General holds India guilty of causing his country "the ultimate injury" by helping Bangladesh gain independence.

Having expanded on this revanchist theme,

the General concludes that "time is in our favour". Why has Islamabad chosen to sneak in this vein and why does it think that time favours the Pakistan junta against India? 1947, the General notes with regret, did not break up India and create in the subcontinent six or seven States roughly of equal size. This blue-print for India's balkanization was devised by the British patrons of the Pakistan movement. It succeeded in carving a Pakistan, leaving India still the world's second largest nation. But the General has not lost hope and believes that India is on the decline. What, with separatism in Punjab, south and north-east India, and the Chinese capacity "to teach India a lesson", the General has convinced himself, India's political unity will not survive the strains. Pakistan will not accept India's terms for friendship because that would mean that Islamabad cannot embroil the great powers, especially the US and China, in the affairs of south Asia. US military assistance, the General says, is the strongest source of strength against India. He has no use for pretences and does not even raise the Soviet bogey which is adduced in Washington to justify Pakistan's military build-up with Western military and economic assistance. The General makes clear that Pakistan's only possible adversary is India. From the foregoing two conclusions arise. However wrong this estimate of India's weaknesses, the junta may have convinced itself that the current internal threats are strong enough to dismember India. Acting on a misreading of the Indian situation the junta, emboldened by the American hand-outs, may be tempted to inflict on India "the blow" which it hopes, will shatter this country's alleged great power ambitions. In 1965 the Ayub dictatorship started the war in the belief that the Chinese attacks had debilitated India and that this country would not be able to withstand a fullscale Pakistani attack. Delhi has been forewarned that a similar miscalculation may inspire another Pakistani misadventure.

CSO: 4600/1523

BRIEFS

TANK OVERHAULS PLANNED--NEW DELHI, Jan. 18--The Government has dropped the proposal for the import of L-60 engines from Britain for the Vijayanta tanks and has instead decided to step up the overhaul of tanks and its engines at the Army Base Workshop here. The Defence Ministry is considering a Rs. 200 million's proposal for expansion of the Base Workshop to augment tank overhaul facilities, according to official sources. The project is expected to be completed in five to seven years. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Jan 84 p 1]

AMBASSADOR TO ITALY--NEW DELHI, Jan. 18--The Governor of Sikkim, Mr. Homi J.H. Talyarkhan is being appointed Ambassador to Italy in place of Mr. J. C. Ajmani, who will be taking over shortly as director of the newly created Foreign Service Institute. He will be the second Governor to be given diplomatic assignment before completing his full term, within a few months of the appointment of the Governor of Assam, Mr. Prakash Metrotra, as the next High Commissioner in London. The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, is reported to be looking around for suitable public men to fill the two gubernatorial vacancies in Assam and Sikkim, since the ruling Congress (I) politicians have been unhappy with the practice of appointing retired officials and service chiefs as Governors of States. The present Ambassador to Libya, Mr. A. G. Asrani, has been appointed Ambassador to Thailand in place of Mr. Ashok Gokhale, who has been reassigned as the next Ambassador to Iran. The Joint Secretary in charge of the West Asia and North Africa division (WANA) in the External Affairs Ministry, Mr. Uday Soni, will be going to Prague as Ambassador to Czechoslovakia. A former Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Mr. G. G. Swell, who is now Ambassador to Burma, is being appointed High Commissioner to Canada. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 19 Jan 84 p 9]

CPI LEADER DIES--Mr Sarada Mitra, member of the CPI National Council died at his residence in Prague on Sunday night, reports PTI. He was 59. He leaves behind his wife and two children. Mr Mitra was also a member of the editorial board of the World Marxist Review. CNS adds: The Central Secretariat of the CPI in a statement expressed deep sorrow at the untimely passing away of Mr Sarada Mitra. The statement said Mr Sarada Mitra was a big asset of the party and had made a mark with his deep knowledge of Marxism-Leninism. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 24 Jan 84 p 1]

MNF UNITS UNLAWFUL--The Centre has declared the Mizo National Front and other bodies set up by it and the so-called Mizo National Army as "unlawful associations" under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967, reports UNI. A Government notification issued in New Delhi on Saturday had openly declared as its objective the formation of an independent Mizoram comprising the Union Territory of Mizoram and the adjacent, Mizo, Kuki inhabited areas of Assam, Manipur and Tripura. The notification said the Front had been employing an armed force, the so-called Mizo National Army, and had set up other bodies to achieve its objective of secession from the Union of India. It was employing the members of its armed force and other persons to attack the security forces, the Government and the citizens of Mizoram and indulging in acts of looting and intimidation against the civilian population and in recruitment of persons and collection of funds illegally. The Government had information that the MNF had established contacts with and secured assistance from foreign countries for the so-called Mizo National Army [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 22 Jan 84 p 1]

ECONOMIC PANEL NAMED--NEW DELHI, January 25--The government today announced the appointment of a high-level committee to examine the principles of a possible shift in economic policies from physical controls to financial controls and other related issues. Mr. M. Narasimham, former finance secretary, will be the chairman of the committee and its other members will be Dr. Bimal Jalan, Dr. Arjun Sengupta, Mr. C. Rangarajan, and Dr. A. Bagchi. The committee has been asked to submit its report by November 30. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 26 Jan 84 p 1]

INDO-CUBAN CULTURAL PACT--NEW DELHI, January 25--A programme of cultural and educational exchanges for three years (1984-1986) between India and Cuba was signed yesterday. Prof. C. L. Anand, joint educational adviser, ministry of education and culture, and Mr. Jose Perez Novoa, ambassador of Cuba in India, signed the agreement following the Indo-Cuban joint committee meetings held in New Delhi on January 20 and 21 during the visit of an official-level delegation from Cuba. The programme of cultural and educational exchange envisages the strengthening and developing friendly relations and co-operation between the two countries and their peoples through exchanges in the field of education, art and culture, films, radio, TV, press and sports. It includes exchange of scholars, performing troupes, university teachers, social scientists, experts in sports, journalists and other media personnel, exchange of exhibition of arts and crafts and photographs, books and publications of mutual interest and holding of film weeks of each other's films and participation in each other's film festivals and book fairs. The programme envisages providing facilities to teachers and scholars visiting each other's country in pursuing post-graduate study and research and award of two scholarships by India to Cuban nationals for study of Hindi at university level. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 26 Jan 84 p 20]

WORLD BANK LOAN--NEW DELHI, Jan. 22--The World Bank will finance the Dudichua open cast mining project in the Singrauli area (U.P.) of Central Coalfields to the tune of \$140.3 millions (Rs. 140.3 crores), it was officially stated here today. This is the first time that the World Bank finances a major coal mining project in India. The loan would help import machinery and obtain

consultancy services and technical assistance for construction, commissioning and operation of the mines. Estimated to cost Rs. 290.64 crores, Dudichua is one of the 11 large open cast mines being taken up by Central Coalfields in the Singrauli area which holds over 7,000 million tonnes of thermal power grade coal. The project's first stage, which is expected to be completed by 1992- 93, will produce five million tonnes of coal to meet the needs of thermal power stations in western India. A negotiating team consisting, among others, of Mr. M. S. Gujral, Chairman of Coal India and Mr. P. K. Lahiri, Joint Secretary in the Department of Coal, left today for Washington for talks. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 23 Jan 84 p 9]

CSO: 4600/1528

IRAN

KHO'INIHA COMMENTS ON SIGNIFICANT DOMESTIC, FOREIGN ISSUES

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 7 Feb 84 p 3

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'iniha by foreign correspondents in Tehran on 5 Feb 84]

[Text] In a press conference in the Majlis with the foreign correspondents on Sunday, Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'iniha responded to their questions.

First, Hojjat ol-Eslam Kho'iniha, addressing the correspondents, said:

In the name of God the compassionate and the merciful. I welcome the honorable correspondents who have come to Iran on the occasion of the Fajr celebrations and the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic revolution and hope that you will carry out the grave responsibility and mission which is that of the press and the mass media, to represent the realities as they are. As has frequently been stated, the expectation of the Islamic Republic and the Iranian nation of the global mass media is not praise for the revolution and the Islamic Republic.

But we expect you to report the changes that have occurred as a result of this revolution, the fruits of the revolution and the values that it has brought about, the treachery of the great global powers and their agents against this revolution and all the other facts as they are. We are certain that in which case, you can be a means to enlighten the oppressed nations who suffer injustice, to awaken them and help them to rise up and liberate themselves from the domination of the Satanic powers.

Then the questions and responses were stated as follows:

Mr (Salaheddin Jorsi) of AL-RA'Y newspaper of Tunis: What are the political objectives of the Iranian hajj pilgrims in Mecca and Medina? Is this action purely to put the Saudi regime in a predicament or is it to make the people of Saudi Arabia rebel against the governing regime?

Mr Kho'iniha responded: Neither of these two objectives stated in the question is the intention of the Iranian pilgrims. But, what we understand of the Koran and the hajj as it has been explained in Islam is that all Muslims who are capable and financially able must assemble during a particular season of the year and through this Islamic gathering, perform their worship and declare their disdain for the enemies of Islam and God. The Koran has clearly stated and instructed on this issue. Since the time of the Prophet of Islam, the Prophet of Islam was responsible for expressing his disdain for the infidels during the hajj pilgrimage in accordance with God's order. This duty has been conferred on all Muslims since the time of the Prophet and at the present time, as well, it is the duty of the Muslims of this age. I will quote the verse from the Koran, which states:

Declare from God and His messenger to the people on the day of grand pilgrimage that God disdains the infidels and so does his prophet [Arabic].

A general announcement by God on the day of the grand pilgrimage must be heard by all, which is that God disdains the infidels, as does the Messenger of God. The head of the infidels of the world today is global oppression, headed by the Great Satan, the United States.

The second question of this correspondent was: The occupation of the U.S. Embassy is now a global issue. In your opinion, why has this action not been repeated with regard to the Soviet Embassy in Tehran?

Answer: From the time of the occupation of the U.S. Embassy, in fact, the U.S. spy nest, in Iran and the region, this issue has been raised. It was stated at that time that we knew that some other embassies in Iran were also engaged in espionage, however, what was most important was that a government called the Pahlavi government and the monarchy, which had ties with the United States, had fallen and despite the fact that the revolution had been victorious and the entire nation had declared its hatred for the monarchy and the person of the shah as well as declared their faith and belief in the Islamic Republic, the United States took the shah to the United States under the pretext of his being ill in order to make of the shah a political rallying point, to gather the counterrevolutionaries of Iran there around the shah and through him, organize a conspiracy against the revolution. It was organizing this conspiracy outside Washington within the U.S. Embassy which, in fact, warranted the place being called the spy nest. With their deep understanding, the young people of this country attacked the location of this conspiracy in order to disrupt it.

But, even though the Soviet Union or other countries might be engaged in certain actions in their embassies which are not proper for an embassy, they do not have the capability for such a great conspiracy against the revolution and the Islamic Republic. Furthermore, we are not a nation to provide a place to certain individuals as diplomats, allowing them to establish embassies and then attack and occupy an embassy every day. No, all governments and all embassies must know that as long as they have the permission of the government of Iran, they will be provided protection and security by the government of the Islamic Republic and shall not be the objects of violence by anyone.

Mr Zia' Musa of AL-BA'TH (SURIYYEH) asked: The Saudi Arabian people are attempting to get close to the Islamic revolution. What actions have been taken in this regard thus far?

Answer: The only action that we can take in connection with all Muslims and nations is to clarify the basis of the Islamic revolution and explain the sound principles upon which this revolution is founded. In other words, what we actually understand of Islam and the basis on which we have made this revolution will be explained to the nations. The rest is the responsibility of the nations themselves. We have no intention of interfering in the internal affairs of either Islamic or non-Islamic countries. If the people of Saudi Arabia wish to be informed of certain facts about the revolution and the Islamic Republic, we can provide them with information and knowledge. But, the rest is their responsibility. And we have carried out this duty through various methods. We will explain to them through radio and television of perhaps during the hajj pilgrimage, should a Muslim brother, whether from Saudi Arabia or other places, contact Iranian Muslims and ask them about the realities inside the country.

A correspondent from (INTENFO), a newspaper from Italy, asked: What is your opinion concerning the existing policies of the churches and the role of the pope in them?

Answer: We must express our disappointment with regard to the situation of the churches, in particular the leaders of the churches, concerning the injustice and oppression in the world today. Since we recognize Christianity as an authentic religion rooted in the history of religions and believe that the basis of this religion has been announced to humanity by God through one of his great prophets, we expect of the followers of the Christian faith, especially their religious and church leaders, headed by the pope, to take the most decisive positions against the injustice and oppression which occur today at the hands of global oppression. But, unfortunately, these churches, especially the Vatican and the pope, have rarely played a

constructive role for the oppressed people of the world, both Christians and non-Christians.

As far as we have seen, the pope has always been at the side of the most oppressive of oppressors. Today, as yesterday, the pope is always at the side of such figures as the U.S. presidents. We have never seen the pope take a position against them despite all the crimes that they commit.

Today, oppression and injustices by the United States, France and Israel in Lebanon are witnessed by the whole world. But, we have never heard a cry against these three oppressive and tyrannical powers from the pope or other church leaders. Hence, we believe that the followers of Christ and that group of clerics and Christian religious leaders who sympathize with the oppressed people of the world should create a revolution within the churches and force the pope and others to rise up against global injustice and oppression. And if they do not, the people should dismiss them and take the leadership of a global movement against these oppressors in the Christian world.

(LARIKOPILIKA) newspaper of Italy asked: If another person comes to power in Iraq in place of Saddam, what will be the position of the Islamic Republic?

Answer: Changing a person, replacing one pawn with another, will not solve any problem between the two nations of Iraq and Iran. The Iranian nation has suffered injustice, much financial damage and innumerable losses of life at the hands of the Ba'th government. These damages must be compensated. If the aggressor is punished and our damages are compensated, the war will end. But, if these objectives are not achieved, no problem will be resolved by changing Saddam and replacing him with another pawn who is the functionary of foreigners.

Ms (Catherine Evans) of the FINANCIAL TIMES asked: How many members of the Islamic Republican Party are in the Majlis, and are the Christian and Jewish religions represented in the Majlis?

Answer: Yes, our Constitution grants the religious minorities--Jews, Zoroastrians, and Christians--the right to elect representatives to the Majlis and today, they have representatives in the Majlis. In the next elections, as well, they will have representatives, because it is in the Constitution. Even in recent days, when the election law was being discussed in the Majlis, one article which could have called for religious minorities in the future to elect their representatives from among Muslims was amended and the right was fully granted to the minorities to elect whomever they want as their representative to the Majlis. In accordance with the

Constitution, they must choose from among themselves and they cannot do otherwise.

I do not know precisely the number of members of the [Islamic] Republican Party in the Majlis. Not all those who are interested in the Party have become official members and all those who are members do not necessarily follow its membership regulations everywhere. There are a number in the Majlis who might be official members of the [Islamic] Republican Party and there are those who might be interested in some of the members of the Party, especially the leaders of the [Islamic] Republican Party, without being members of the Party. But, the important issue that must be noted is that the revolution in its victory and since its victory has not been limited and restricted in the form of a particular political organization. In other words, no party or group has been able thus far to bring all the people within its framework. But there are those members of the [Islamic] Republican Party who serve the Islamic Republic. But there are many servants of this revolution and this country who have not accepted membership in the Party. However, this does not mean that they are opposed to it. Essentially, our society has not yet achieved a completely perfect organization, like other Western or some Eastern societies, to find it necessary to join a party or group.

While a person is a political element in the society, entering into various political scenes, working and serving, he does not find it necessary to join a political organization.

Her second question concerned the second term elections of the Majlis. She asked: What is the procedure for elections of the members for the second term of the Majlis and, on the whole, in what form can the people elect their representatives? Will the representatives be permitted to campaign?

Answer: When the elections are announced, it will be like the previous term. Any individual may himself become a candidate and any group may also present candidates. Then, after the competence of the candidates has been verified by the legal authorities, permission will be granted for campaign advertising. However, they will have equal rights in advertising. Incidentally, today, the Majlis was discussing the article on campaign advertising in the election law. In this law, care has been taken not to grant anyone privileges. All candidates will have equal rights. For example, even if a Friday imam of a city decides to become a candidate for the Majlis, he must resign one or two months before. If he were to use the podium of the Friday prayers, naturally, he would be using a strong podium which his election rival is unable to use.

Or, it has also been said that if a minister, deputy minister, one of the governors or lieutenant governors or the governor general wants to be a candidate, they must resign their posts (six months) two months earlier and should have no responsibilities in the electoral district. This shows that the Majlis and the Islamic Republic have in mind total electoral freedom and equal rights in advertising, which must be secured. No one is prohibited from participating in the elections, with the exception of those groups which are trying to overthrow the Islamic Republic, such as the hypocrites, the Tudeh Party or some of the other Communist groups which may be trying to overthrow the Islamic Republic; they do not have the right to participate in the elections, which is logical.

Her third question was: How can you claim that you have free elections?

Answer: Because there is no reason not to have freedom or to prevent freedom. A government prohibits free elections when it is afraid of the people and is separate from them. In a government which is together with its people on all political scenes, shoulder to shoulder, neither are the people afraid of their government nor is the government afraid of the people. They all enter in a united line in all political scenes and there is no reason to prevent freedom. The people are so alert and conscious that for every corrupt element who wants to place himself in the position of a representative to the Majlis, there is no need for the government to interfere, the people themselves will put him aside.

Therefore, my answer is that we have no reason to prevent freedom.

[Question] How do you see the future of the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the hajj pilgrimage ceremonies?

Answer: Last year, the world witnessed that despite the disruptive actions of some opponents, we were able to send more than 100,000 Iranians to Saudi Arabia and they were completely successful in performing their worship and carrying out their political duties. The world especially witnessed how they were welcomed by other Muslims in the world last year. In the next year also, we are determined to have 150,000 people participate in the hajj ceremonies. God willing, with the experience that we have gained in previous years, with the welcome that other nations have given the political movements of Iranians, we hope that next year, we will carry out our political and worship duties with much more enthusiasm, revolutionary zeal and effectiveness. What I have said in the past, I repeat again. It is in the interests of the government of Saudi Arabia not to create obstacles in our path in carrying out our duties, because

the more magnificent and political this assembly is, in the interests of Islam, the more global aggression will sense the power of Islam, which will be more beneficial for the independence of Islamic countries, particularly Saudi Arabia itself.

Ms (Carol Ross) of Spanish radio and television: How have the foreign trade laws and the land distribution law been devised; what are the positions of the various groups in the Majlis with regard to this law and what share do all of these laws have in the Islamization of the society?

Answer: The foreign trade law, and any other law which is related to our economic issues, is based on the economic chapter of our Constitution, which has been divided into three sectors: the government sector, the cooperative sector and the private sector. In other words, in the regime of the Islamic Republic, in our economy, we neither consider a totally private sector beneficial nor an economy totally dependent on the government. But there is a government sector, a private sector and a cooperative sector. The cooperative sector is in one sense a part of the private sector and in a sense a part of the government sector.

We must take these three sectors into consideration in every area. Hence, one part of foreign trade concerns the government sector, one part the private sector, and one part the cooperative sector. Of course, this bill is at the present time in its final stages and it will not be long before its final ratification.

One of the newspapers of Libya: How do you evaluate the relations between the Libyan revolution and the Islamic revolution of Iran?

Answer: Since the victory of the revolution, we have had good relations with our brother country of Libya. This is partly due to the Libyan movement, before the victory of the revolution, which ended in the fall of the previous government and the coming to power of the Libyan revolutionary council. Our nation, not the government of the shah, welcomed the overthrow of King Idris. Since that revolutionary movement and victory, the hearts of our nation, especially during the shah's time, have been continually attentive to the events in Libya and our nation has continued to follow the situation with regard to that country. Their success has continued to make our nation happy and the disruptions against the Libyan government after their victory have caused us concern. Since the victory of the Islamic revolution, the relations between the two governments have improved and, today, we have the best of relations with Libya. We hope that that country is successful and, as before, preserves its correct revolutionary positions based on Islamic values in foreign

policy, continues this course, and also internally becomes a stronger propagator of Islamic values. We hope that the Muslim nations and Islamic countries which have begun to seek independence in fighting global oppression through becoming closer to one another and joining hands evaluate their problems better, try to resolve them and help each other in the Islamization of their countries.

[Question] They request that you explain more about the land distribution law.

Answer: Concerning land reform, a law was discussed and ratified in the Majlis by which some of the agricultural lands would be distributed among the farmers. This bill met with objections from the Council of Guardians of the Constitution and was returned to the Majlis. At the present time, the concerned committee is studying the bill again. The important point that must be noted is that we must study and carry out every action and change in the economy of our country with consideration for the special circumstances of this country.

In other words, assuming that in a country all the lands are distributed and every farmer is given the land he needs or as much as there is, even if this is a beneficial situation, it does not mean that the same would be true in other countries as well. In Iran, given our geographical constraints, not all of our land is arable. We do not have sufficient water everywhere. Not all the lands can be mechanized. Not all of our villages are readily able to have all the comforts and cultural services they need so rapidly, within a period of a few years.

With regard to roads, we have shortages. Our communication with the villages is not ideal. Our resources in the area of health and treatment are not sufficient to satisfy the needs of all the villages. In regards to schools, we have the same problem. Hence, considering all that I have pointed out, in the area of agriculture as well, a law that creates change must take these problems into consideration. Hence, in short, I should say:

We never think that the distribution of lands among the farmers will certainly be the solution to our agricultural problems or that it is the only solution. No, our agricultural problems stem from various factors and reasons. Among them, our farmers do not have sufficient land at their disposal. But I want to stress that everyone notes that in solving our agricultural problems, we do not imitate other schools and countries; if land distribution had resolved their agricultural problems, we would imitate them blindly and believe that all our problems regarding agriculture revolve around the issue of land and hence through land distribution, the agricultural problem would be solved. No, we do not deal with the issue in such a simple-minded fashion. We

will take various issues into consideration. Among them is the problem of land and the amount of land needed by every farmer. Of course, we do not have sufficient land everywhere in the country for each and every one of our farmers. There is either land and no water, or there is water and no arable land, or if there is, it cannot be mechanized and agriculture must be carried out in a traditional way, presenting dozens of problems.

The last question, AL-MANTEQ AL-ESLAMI from Lebanon: What advice do you have for the Islamic student movement in Lebanon?

Answer: Of course, in a seminar of students from numerous countries from around the world which was held in Iran, I made a statement which I will repeat now. In order to make the student movement vital, especially in the Islamic countries, an Islamic movement is necessary. Political movements without an Islamic ideological movement will get nowhere. Today, global oppression has many deceptive tools at its disposal to neutralize our young student forces. It deceives our students into not entering the political scene or makes them busy with a series of political games which will not result in anything, because those political games are not rooted in the depth of the conscience of our young students. I believe that only under certain conditions can a healthy political movement based on an Islamic student movement be created in an Islamic country and achieve results. The policy which stems from such an Islamic student movement can set our youth on a healthy political course. Our students must not be deceived by the nationalist slogans from here on. They should not be deceived by leftist "people" slogans. Experience has shown that every society which falls into the lap of these leftist groups and leftist schools, in the end, clearly becomes a plaything in their hands. The fate of the Tudeh Party of Iran is the most sorrowful fate of a political group at the disposal of the leftist current. Forty years ago, certain students and young people of student age deceived them with slogans of support for the people. Finally, they woke up from their sleep and saw that they had become a bunch of spies at the disposal of the KGB. Such bitter experiences are sufficient to return the Muslim students to Islam and by creating an Islamic student movement throughout the Islamic countries, to form an authentic Islamic movement. The governments today are seriously afraid of student political movements based on Islamic values and their fear is not unfounded. I hope that our students will no longer be deceived like the previous so-called pro-people groups, return to Islam, rely strongly on Islam and also avoid nationalistic slogans which will not achieve any results.

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CSO: 4640/123

ARTICLE EXPLORES RELATIONSHIP WITH SOUTH AFRICA

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 320, 9 Jan 84 pp 32-33

[Article by Dr 'Ali Nurizadeh: 'The Story of the Relationship of the Ayatollahs' Republic With South Africa']

[Text] Much has been written about the relations of Iran's ayatollahs with Israel and the United States, but their relations with South Africa have been comparatively unknown up to now. This evaluation is an attempt at exploring the dimensions of an important relationship whose roots go back to the days of the Shah.

Tup Khaneh Square in Tehran is unlike other squares because of its antiquity and role in the important events of modern Iranian history.

Tup Khaneh means in Persian "arsenal." The reason for the name dates to the days of the Qajar Nasr ed-Din Shah, who ordered the creation of an artillery battalion in this square. The square was also the site of the execution of Shaykh Fazlollah Nuri, grandfather of Communist Party leader Nur ed-Din Kiyanuri. Shaykh Fazlollah Nuri whom Khomeyni calls the martyred shaykh was executed for plotting with the Qajar Mohammed 'Ali Shah against the people who wanted to proclaim the constitution and the formation of a parliament.

Golestan Palace, one of the royal palaces in Tehran, is situated no more than 100 meters from Tup Khaneh Square. When World War II began, Reza Shah, father of the late shah, ordered the creation of three broadcasting stations in Tup Khaneh Square. Every day, precisely at 4 pm, Berlin radio broadcast its Persian language programs and radio broadcasts over the Berlin Persian language air waves were organized in Tup Khaneh Square. The people would gather together in the square to listen to Hitler and the news of the German Army's victories. Reza Shah walked in the garden of Golestan Palace and listened with some of his relatives and friends either to the Berlin radio or Tup Khaneh radio, as it was then known.

Reza Shah did not like the English and he admired Hitler, and there was no difference between him and his people in this respect. Some of the simple souls among the ordinary people thought Hitler was a holy man because he spoke perfect Persian and Arabic and prayed five times a day. The shah himself was an admirer of Hitler because of his stern military behavior. Be that as it may,

when the English and the Americans came to Iran on the pretext of supporting the Soviet Union, the radio wave lengths (Tup Khaneh) were changed from Berlin to London and Reza Shah was forced to abdicate in favor of his son Mohammed Reza Shah because of pressure from Britain and the Soviet embassy. However, the English and Soviets were not content merely with the shah's abdication. They decided to exile him from Iran.

The abdicated shah bid farewell to his son and traveled to Bandar 'Abbas where he boarded a British ship that was to take him to India. Despite the British promise to send him to India, they banished him first to the island of Mauritius and then to the city of Johannesburg in South Africa.

The shah died in Johannesburg after 4 years of torment and hardship because of the arrangements made for him in the British capital.

That is why Johannesburg is not unknown in Iran. Even the ordinary people know that the heavens in Johannesburg heard the shah's confidential talk and his prayer to God that he die as soon as possible.

In the time of the late shah there was no official relations between Iran and South Africa, but Iran had an economic interests section in Johannesburg. Moreover, the shah shared in the financing of an oil refinery project in Pretoria. However, the shah's hatred for those responsible for the misfortunes that befell his father and the expansion of relations between Iran and the African countries led to making South Africa merely a trading partner. And in the area of political disputes, Iran would support the liberation movements in South Africa, including SWAPO. Yet the shah's adversaries used to accuse him of maintaining relations with Pretoria. No one knew that those who were to follow the shah would open their arms to the racist regime there and buy weapons from South Africa and its racist partner Israel.

The days passed, the shah left, and the Imam came.

The first statement issued by Hasan Nazih upon becoming director of the Iranian Oil Company after the revolution specifically mentioned an embargo on Iranian oil for Israel and South Africa. When Nazih met with foreign newsmen the following day, Richard Jones, a white Britisher originally from Pretoria, asked a question phrased this way: "Based on our knowledge of your past, especially in connection with the defense of human rights and defense of political prisoners, I should like to ask: Did you decide to cut off oil exports to South Africa because of your personal dislike of what is taking place there or was a political decision made in the Revolutionary Leadership Council or cabinet that you were assigned to implement?"

Nazih answered the South African-born British journalist as follows: "I say to you in all candor that I made this decision by myself and I was also able to convince the prime minister of the necessity of doing so. Yes, I dislike racists and Zionists for discriminating on the basis of color and race. Millions of eyes are watching us as we call for liberty and equality between peoples."

Nazih ordered an embargo on oil exports to Israel and South Africa. The decision remained in force only a few months when Khomeyni ordered his guards to arrest him for refusing orders issued from Ayatollah Khomeyni's headquarters to deposit 10 percent of oil profits in Khomeyni's private account No 100 in the Iranian National Bank. Nazih went into hiding and then left Iran to lead the resistance against Khomeyni. He was succeeded by Eng Mo'ayenpur, the son-in-law of Ayatollah Eshraqi, who was in turn Khomeyni's son-in-law. He also sent a special mission to Pretoria to meet the officials there and to resolve the problems existing between the two countries. This was also announced at that time.

It must be noted, however, that the relations with Pretoria did not improve until Bazargan resigned and the mullahs gained complete control of the government.

Pretoria was an open city whose markets welcome visitors. The ayatollahs' regime was suffering from the economic blockade caused by the American hostages problem. This in turn provided an excuse for the regime to make contact with South Africa to purchase what it needs and to mask it with ringing slogans.

During the last 3 years and just after the beginning of the Iranian-Iraqi war, the volume of commercial exchanges between the two countries increased and as far as oil is concerned, the volume of exports to South Africa rose from 5 million tons in 1975 to 14 million tons in 1982. Large quantities of arms as well as industrial and electronic equipment also reached Iran. In addition, South Africa exported to Iran a quantity of foodstuffs and medical supplies. According to a study published in the newspaper AL-MOJAHED, voice of the opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, the number of Iranian ships sailing for South African ports in the early months of 1983 was triple that in 1982.

Moreover, the Iranian Trade Relations Office in Pretoria, which was set up in the time of the shah, has now become a quasi-embassy employing more than 30 Iranian military men and civilians.

The regime also sent one of the mullahs, a man named Hojjat ol-Eslam Amini, to South Africa to monitor the exports of meat from South Africa to Iran as well as the operation of slaughtering cattle there in the Islamic way.

The Iranian military mission in Pretoria is directed by a representative of the Revolutionary Guard named Hoseyn Dowlatkah. He was an advisor of Mohsen Reza'i, leader of the Revolutionary Guard.

In this connection, the Indian newspaper TELEGRAPH published some important secrets in a special investigation: "An official in a ship salvage company in Singapore announced in a press interview that the ship "Wind Enterprise," which ran aground in the low-water port of Shah 'Alem, was carrying 357,000 tons of Iranian oil to South Africa.

The Indian newspaper's investigation was not the first of its kind. Many reports and news accounts have been published about the relations between the ayatollahs' regime and the racist regime in South Africa!

Anyone who regularly reads the publication "Lloyds List" will find many references to the trips of Iranian ships to South African ports and to the number of days they remain there. The following appeared in the paper on 11 August 1983:

"On 10 May 1983 the ship 'Amtlan' owned by South Africa left the Iranian port of Bandar 'Abbas for Durban in South Africa and the Iranian ship 'Ershad-e Iran' arrived in Durban on 6 August. The ship 'Shirawazhan' also entered the port of Durban early in August 1983 and left it after 3 weeks of loading on electronic equipment. The ship reached Bandar 'Abbas on 9 August."

Is further evidence needed to prove that the ayatollahs' regime has relations with the racist regime in South Africa?

It might be better if we turned to a formal legal opinion expressed by Khomeyni in his book "Tawzih al-Masa'il" ("Clarification of Problems"): "Some acts performed by Zayd are forbidden but are permitted if done by 'Amr.

It can therefore be said that relations with South Africa are forbidden for the shah but permissible for the Imam!

5214

CSO: 4604/12

CHIEF JUSTICE: ISLAMIC LAWS MOST ACCURATE, PROGRESSIVE IN WORLD

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Feb 84 p 3

[Text] As programs and meetings prepared for foreign guests participating in the celebrations of the fifth anniversary of the Islamic revolution's victory continued, Musavi Ardebili, state supreme court chief justice, Sane'i, state public prosecutor, Bojnurdi, a member of the Supreme Judicial Council, and a deputy judge of the council attended a gathering of guests and conversed with those present concerning the judicial process in the Islamic republic's courts and the framing and implementation of laws.

According to IRNA's report, Ayatollah Musavi Ardebili gave a speech in which he thanked the guests for participating in the anniversary celebrations of the Islamic revolution's victory, and in explaining the function of the judicial power in the Islamic republic, said: One of the important and extremely valuable accomplishments of the Islamic revolution is the organization of the judicial power on the basis of the sacred religion of Islam. In the past the clergy were not involved in judicial matters, or if they were, in only a very minor capacity. These matters were basically controlled by agents affiliated with the former regime.

It was due to this that the judicial power drowned in western culture, and a large number of Islamic principles were forgotten. Therefore, after the victory of the Islamic revolution, among all the urgencies we felt, the strongest one was to bring about a transformation of the judicial power due to the critical nature of the work. We therefore based our work on reforming judicial affairs.

The state supreme court chief justice also said: As with other tasks, reshaping the judicial power into an Islamic one was accompanied by a great many difficulties. However, through God's grace, the problems were solved one after the other. Today we can bravely say that Iran's judicial power is more than 80 percent Islamic. He added: Our most important problems in implementing Islamic laws were utterly fundamental, ones such as making the people and the world understand Islamic laws. The imperialist media made such a lot of black propaganda against Islamic laws that the public opinion lost its willingness to accept Islamic laws. They said that Islam did not have unified laws and the existing laws in Islamic jurisprudence were a series of laws appropriate 14 centuries ago, planned for that period and

social conditions. They also claimed that Islamic laws were impossible to implement. The persons who spoke thus of Islamic laws never had any knowledge of them. We explicitly proclaim that the laws of the Islamic republic today are the most precise and progressive laws in the world. We are ready to sit down to a discussion with anyone who contradicts this. We are planning to arrange a future seminar as an introduction, to exchange views and to utilize the experience of Muslim jurists.

According to the report, Ayatollah Ardebili, chief supreme court justice, Ayatollah Sane'i, state public prosecutor, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Bojnurdi, member of the Supreme Judicial Council, then answered various questions from the guests concerning the implementation of Islamic laws in Iran. This lasted an hour.

Answering a question as to how the Islamic republic treated non-Muslims and non-Shi'ites from the judicial standpoint, the chief justice stated: From the penal standpoint, all of the Iranian nation, of every race, color and creed, are equal before the law, and they are treated according to the current laws. However, from the civil standpoint, Muslims, whether Shi'ite or Sunni, and other recognized religious minorities, freely behave according to their own laws. Responding to another question, he said: According to the Constitution of the Islamic republic, there is freedom of belief, and no one is punished for holding a belief. Concerning the Islamic republic's treatment of innate apostates, including Marxists, Hojjat ol-Eslam Bojnurdi said: Out of its kindness the Islamic republic punishes no one for being an innate apostate unless the apostasy is inseparable from warring against God. According to the edict of imam Khomeyni, may he long live, if an apostate repents, his repentance will be accepted, but the four commandments will still be applied to him.

In reply to a question concerning corporeal punishment for drinking alcohol and adultery, Ayatollah Ardebili, supreme court chief justice, stated: All our laws and punishments are Islamic, and these punishments were prescribed in the glorious Koran. Not only in these two instances, but all of God's punishments have been prescribed in the text of our laws. While refuting the claims of world arrogance's mass media about the execution of persons in Iran, he stated: According to Islamic law, first degree murderers, those warring against God, and the corrupt receive the death penalty. This affair also goes through five stages, and if the avenger of the blood shed is not satisfied, the execution takes place.

According to this report, the meeting of the foreign guests with the state judicial officials ended at 1900 hours.

9597

CSO: 4640/120

PAPER COMMENTS ON ASSASSINATION OF ROYALIST GENERAL

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 8 Feb 84 p 3

[Text] Tehran--IRNA--General Oveyssi, the mass murderer of 8 September 1978, was given a revolutionary execution in Paris yesterday. Oveyssi, who was the Pahlavi's leading military agent in 1978-1979 and known as the butcher of Tehran, had been living in Paris in disguise under the protection of the French secret police. Yesterday evening, after he had been identified, he was gunned down by a four-man group in front of his hiding place, and annihilated along with his brother. Oveyssi's funeral procession had been underway for an hour, and the French police, who in their total surprise after being informed of what had happened were preventing people from approaching the cortege, were still not ready to reveal his identity. According to the latest information received, the Paris police expressed ignorance of the identity of Oveyssi's killers, who made good their escape.

Gholam'ali Oveyssi, as Tehran's military commander, gave the order on 17 September 1978 to fire on the demonstrators in Shohada Square. As a result on this almost unrivalled crime, about three thousand of Tehran's Muslim people were martyred, while the Pahlavi regime disgracefully announced the number to be 98 persons. Oveyssi, who was known as the Pahlavi regime's premier military agent, fled from Iran before the victory of the Islamic revolution. After 11 February 1979 he announced he was actively organizing the military opposition to overthrow the Islamic government. His support included political-military aid from the West, a group of fugitive officers, and monarchists.

Due to his devotion to the enemies of the country and Islam, and his hostility to Iran's people, Gholam'ali Oveyssi quickly progressed in the vile royal military system. After a period as an officer in the Royal Guard, he became the commander of the Royal Guard. In 1971-1972 he became commander of the Army. In this period he established firm connections with the United States and the United Kingdom, and was one of the effective agents in the shah's military intervention in Oman and Dhofar. He had a hand in a great many of the military contracts with the West, and by this means accumulated a great deal of wealth.

After the massacre of Tehran's people on 8 September 1978, he occupied the post of minister of labor as well as that of Tehran's military commander

in Azhari's cabinet of October 1978. Ten days before the shah fled, Oveyssi himself got ready to flee, and through political collusion was removed from his position. According to the list published by Bank-e-Markazi, Oveyssi was able to send several million dollars of the country's foreign exchange out of the country. According to Washington's plan, when the victory of the Islamic revolution seemed probable, he was removed from his post as commander of the Army by the "American" Bakhtiar on 8 January 1979 so that he could organize the military preparations for the revolution's opposition abroad. In late January 1979, a little after the shah's flight on 16 January 1979, he fled from Iran. During the entire five-year period of his dishonorable flight and hiding, he benefited from the West's military and intelligence help and devoted all his efforts to organizing the opponents of the Islamic revolution as he was ordered to do by the revolution's enemies.

According to the latest news and a report from AFP, the Islamic Jihad Organization has taken credit for assassinating Oveyssi.

9597

CSO: 4640/121

COMMENTARY ON LATEST GAS, OIL FIND

GF050544 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 22 Feb 84 p 3

[Editorial: "The Discovery of New Gas Reserves"]

[Excerpts] The federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, (retired) Major General Rao Farman Ali Khan, has announced the discovery of new gasfield 50 kms south of Rawalpindi at Dhurnal.

The federal minister for petroleum, Dr Asad Mohammad Khan [as published], is very optimistic about the possibility of vast reserves in the sea near Karachi. A lot of work has been done on initial surveys, but a large sum of money is necessary for drilling, which is why Pakistan is trying to interest foreign companies. On the international level, the issue of oil seems now to be one of limiting of production rather than increasing it and that is the reason why the interest of foreign companies in prospecting for oil in new areas is waning.

Efforts are being made to obtain the modern (and expensive) equipment from the Soviet Union, Canada and the United States. But luck also plays a part, therefore there is no other way except to expand the oil exploration program and we hope that "slow and steady wins the race."

To become self-sufficient in oil production would make Pakistan's cherished dream of standing on its own feet and becoming a land of plenty a reality. Fate is something beyond man's control and planning but one can persevere with fortitude. We hope that with this success in discovering gas that we continue to accelerate the pace of the investment and exploration so that the increase in the demand for oil will be followed by a concomitant increase in success in our search and the hope for self-sufficiency in this basic need will materialize.

CSO: 4656/100

NEW OIL FIND REPORTED

GF021120 Karachi DAWN in English 28 Feb 84 p 1

[From the Economic and Business Review Section]

[Text] Islamabad, 27 Feb--Oil has struck at Dhurnal with a production capacity of approximately 1,600 barrels per day with 3 million cubic feet of gas per day.

This was disclosed at a news conference here this afternoon by the federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, Rao Farman Ali Khan, who had announced the discovery of gas from the very field about a week ago.

Dhurnal, a new field in the Potohar region, is located 50 miles south of the federal capital and is a fairly large structure spreading over an area of nine square miles.

The oil discovered, the minister told the newsmen, is of very high quality and has been found at a depth of 12,516 feet against the target of drilling of 13,500 feet. The drilling will continue as there were chances of oil in another horizon between the present oil structure and the target depth.

Rao Farman Ali Khan said there was no significant quantity of sulphur in the oil while the gas was like one we had for LPG [liquefied petroleum gas] and it could be used for LPG purposes. The government, he added, will however go for oil other than the gas.

He was of the view that the discovery of the oil from the very field would improve the overall economy of the whole region.

To a questioner, the minister replied that about eight wells could be drilled in the region.

The well has been drilled by the Occidental Oil Company of the United States in collaboration with the Oil and Gas Development Corporation (OGDC) and Pakistan Oil Fields.

Replying to another question, he said that about 3,000 barrels of oil per day would start reaching Karachi from Leghari field by 10 March this year. The country, thus, would be producing about 15,000 barrels of oil per day, he added.

JOINT COMMISSION WITH EEC ENDS 2-DAY SESSION

BK270220 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 26 Feb 84

[Text] A wide range of subjects for cooperation between Pakistan and the EEC were identified at the 2-day session of the Pakistan-EEC joint commission which ended in Islamabad this evening. They include an investment promotion program, particularly in the export processing zone at Karachi. Other subjects were trade promotion, marketing and leather processing. Both sides agreed that an integrated approach should be adopted in specific areas of export interest to Pakistan, particularly engineering goods, leather, gems and jewelry. It was agreed that Pakistan should participate in the management of seminars and trade fairs in Paris and elsewhere.

The commission took stock of the existing economic cooperation between Pakistan and the EEC and discussed the prospects of collaboration in the fields of energy, science and technology. It also reviewed the EEC aid to Pakistan and industrial cooperation between the two sides. The Pakistan side at the session was led by the federal commerce secretary, Mr Izharul Haq, while that of the EEC, by the deputy director general for external relations of the community, Mr (George Louis).

Matters relating to the Pakistan-EEC economic, financial and technical cooperation were also discussed when the leader of the EEC delegation called on the federal finance minister in Islamabad today. The integrated program for selected commodities and tariff quota also came under discussion at the meeting. The delegation was told that Pakistan was keen to expand ties with the EEC.

CSO: 4600/409

JAMATT-W-ISLAMI OFFICIAL SEEKS ACCORD WITH PPP

GF171002 Dubayy KHALEEJ TIMES in English 17 Feb 84 p 7

[By correspondent]

[Text] Islamabad--Deputy chief of right-wing Jamaat-e Islami Prof Ghafoor Ahmed has indicated his party is rethinking its present strategy of covert support to government and instead to work towards an understanding the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] for democratic revival in the country.

"We now realise that there should be an understanding with People's Party, for we suppose its struggle is for the implementation of 1973 constitution in letter and spirit," Prof Ghafoor observed in a press interview in Karachi.

Prof Ghafoor said party leaders were to reach Lahore from other parts of the country for a meeting yesterday with Jamaat Chief Miam Tufail Mohammad who has returned recently after long absence abroad. They will discuss revision of existing strategy of the Jamaat whose ambivalent relationship with the martial law regime is giving rise to growing sense of uneasiness and frustration among ordinary members and supporters.

Prof Ghafoor bitterly criticised the military rulers and said their deeds have defied their world. "All that they have done today shows that they want to perpetuate themselves," he remarked.

Prof Ghafoor was candid in admitting that Jamaat was facing a dilemma and rethinking strategy towards the present government, with whom it has cooperated mainly because of Jamaat's deep involvement in the Afghanistan crisis and the struggle of the Afghans.

While Jamaat still opposes any policy of confrontation because of external factors, Prof Ghafoor said a very large group in the party was disheartened over the way the present government has proceeded and was concerned about the threat to the very existence of the country if the present drift continued.

Proposing a closer relationship with other political parties as well as PPP against whom they had launched movement in 1977, Prof Ghafoor appealed to the

good sense of martial law rulers to resolve external and internal dangers which faced the country due to the continuation of the martial law.

He said through negotiations and agreement can be reached for elections within the time schedule announced on 12 August.

CSO: 4600/409

PAKISTAN

POLITICAL LEADER CALLS FOR END TO AMBIGUITY

GF201548 Karachi DAWN in English 17 Feb 84 p 18

[Text] Lahore, 16 Feb--Prof Abdul Ghafoor Ahmad, Naib Amir, Jamaat-i-Islami, on Thursday urged the government to do away with its present policy of ambiguity and indecisiveness on the schedule and mode of elections and make a categorical announcement in this regard by taking the political parties into confidence.

The Jamaat leader who faced a volley of probing questions on his party's stand on various national and international issues, was participating in the 'Tajzia' [analysis] programme arranged by the Lahore Press Club.

He noted with satisfaction that instead of losing temper, some of the PPP leaders had shown moderation on national issues. This approach of cool-headedness should always be preferred to emotionalism, he added.

He reiterated his party's stand that it would oppose to the last the government's bid to conduct polls on on-party basis but if the rulers insisted on holding it on that basis, the Jamaat would participate because some sort of elections were better than none at all.

Prof Ghafoor agreed with a questioner that the government emerging as a result of non-party polls in which all the parties would not be allowed to participate formally, would be a weak one and might not be in a position to face the problems. He was, however, of the view that even these elections would provide an opportunity to the parties for some sort of participation and would advance the democratic process.

He told a questioner that the deadline for elections in the Jamaat's charter (Meesaq-i-Milli) did not amount to an ultimatum to the government for launching a direct action. It was only an attempt to persuade and pressurise it.

He said the Jamaat was opposed to taking any direct action in the present internal and geo-political situation as any such step might only prove to be counter productive, pushing the goal of democracy farther still.

He evaded a direct reply to a question that if elections held under the framework announced on 12 August last would lead to the establishment of a representative government and whether his party would participate in such elections. He said the framework was yet to be elucidated on some aspects but a contest even under the 12 August plan would be better than boycotting it.

Prof Ghafoor maintained that talks with the Karmal government would be fruitless as it was a puppet regime and was not in a position to take any decision nor to implement it. He said the Soviet Union should take effective steps to improve its relations with the Muslim countries, particularly with Pakistan.

He believed that the civilian ministers in the present government should resign forthwith if elections were really to be held.

CSO: 4600/409

POLITICAL LEADER COMMENTS ON POLITICAL ISSUES

GF270623 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 18 Feb 84 p 1

[Report on exclusive interview by Rafiq Dogar with Maulana Kausar Niazi, chief of the defunct Progressive People's Party by Rafiq Dogar in Lahore on 16 February]

[Excerpts] The leader of the defunct Progressive People's Party and former information minister, Maulana Kausar Niazi, has said that the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] has always been a mere mass of voters, never a political party in the true sense. He said Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto was a great leader, but due to his background as a landowner, he became the embodiment of certain malpractices. He was speaking here at the Aiwan-e Waqt [the newspaper's office] in a series of special interviews on political, national and party affairs.

He said: Some people wish to use my name for their benefit, but any attempts to exploit my name to seize power will not be successful. Regarding the setting up of a separate party he said: We are still a part of the PPP, which consists of different groups. When we participate in the elections, many people will be seen with us who are in the other groups he continued: I did not leave the party. I only demanded at a meeting of the Central Committee that the party should not be treated as a family feudal inheritance, that the concept of a landlord-tenant setup should be eliminated, and that the leader be elected in a democratic manner. It was for this "misdemeanor" that Mrs Butto expelled me from the party, although the Central Committee was on my side.

In answer to a question on Miss Bhutto's departure, he said: It is not true that she did not request permission to leave the country. Her signatures were on the applications for visas and a new passport and I personally know that the Foreign Office was trying to obtain permission for her visa and that she knew she was going abroad.

Maulana Kausar Niazi said: Miss Benazir Bhutto has gone abroad because she was disappointed in her party. The statement she gave prior to leaving the country is of great importance as federal democracy implies provincial autonomy, which the family groups of the PPP will present as its policy. Now its policy will not be nationalistic but they will gradually expose their true colors. This family group will now take instructions from abroad and attempt to exert influence from the outside.

He acknowledged that the party's attempts to present its leader as a national hero has proved harmful. He said: If Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto and his family had not adopted the policy of conflict after the imposition of martial law, they would not have been put in this situation. Now the whole family has left the country due to disappointment.

He added: Khomeyni and Ziaul Haq's Islam is not the true Islam in my opinion. Both have used it for political ends. He said: The present regime revived the PPP because it was to its advantage. It depicted the PPP as a bugbear and initiated a policy of suppressing the national solidarity movement. It is due to the policy of the martial law government that we are now hearing talk of a confederation. What Miss Bhutto said before leaving has been said by Hafiz Pirzada and Mumtaz Bhutto in London.

Maulana Kausar Niazi deemed nonparty elections as harmful for the country and he said that it could create a situation which could be deleterious for national and Islamic interests. However, he also added that nonparty elections are better than no elections at all and that he will participate in them, in fact all should participate in them. In answer to a question regarding the restrictions imposed on newspapers when he was minister, he said: The first file I came across was on the restrictions on newspapers, but I did not let this happen.

He said: Some elements are giving wrong advice to the government on adoption of drastic measures against the newspapers. If this advice is heeded it will be the darkest day. Similarly, the imposition of a ban on student unions was an unintelligent step and I smell danger.

CSO: 4656/100

PAKISTAN

POLITICAL DETAINEES ON HUNGER STRIKE

GF021130 Karachi DAWN in English 28 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Hyderabad, 27 Feb--Political prisoners lodged in Hyderabad Central Prison and Sukkur jail went on token hunger strike on Monday to press for the acceptance of their demands.

The main demand of the political detenus is that "false cases" registered against them should immediately be withdrawn.

A spokesman of the Awami Tehreek in a press release said that the demand of the political detenus was "just," and could be accepted easily and without any loss of time. Failing this, the political detenus would be compelled to continue their hunger strike.

He also urged the authorities concerned not to try "false cases" in the summary military court, and to withdraw them immediately instead.

Our staff correspondent in Quetta adds: Nawab Abdul Qadir Kansi, senior vice-president of the defunct National Democratic Party (NDP), completed his 24-hour token hunger strike on Monday. Mr Asif Hazara of the defunct Pakistan National Party (PNP) will go on hunger strike on Tuesday morning.

All the political detenus in the district jail are demanding better facilities, and they are on hunger strike to press for the early acceptance of their demands.

Mr Khudai Noor of the defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqal was the first political prisoner to go on token hunger strike in the prison.

CSO: 4600/409

SECURITY MEN KILLED IN CLASH IN BALUCHISTAN

GF281850 Karachi DAWN in English 24 Feb 84 p 22

[Text] Turbat, 23 Feb--Four members of security force were killed and three wounded in an armed encounter with the armed gang of Azeem and Rasool Bukhsh in Sunt Sar area, about 40 kms from the Baluchistan-Iran border on Tuesday evening, according to reports reaching here.

Azeem and Rasool Bukhsh who now live in the south-western border mountains, originally belonged to Iranian Baluchestan. They migrated to Pakistan due to tribal feud which affected their smuggling and other unlawful activities there during the shah's regime.

They have been marauding in the Pak-Iranian border ever since.

The clash with the security force took place at village Dal Sar, Sunt Sar Sub-Tehsil, Gwadar District. The security force encircled the gang at Dal Sar village. Six members of the gang, however, came to its rescue and attacked the security force personnel from the rear and killed four of them and wounded three.

Among those wounded, it is reported, is Captain Tajammul Sher. Reports reaching here on Wednesday said the exchange of fire was continuing.

It is reported that the gang was also involved in murder cases. The gang used fully automatic weapons.

Meanwhile, the bodies and the wounded have been brought to the civil hospital here.

Security force authorities here have not replied to any queries about the incident.

Further details are awaited.

CSO: 4600/409

SMUGGLERS FLEE TO IRAN

GF021122 Karachi DAWN in English 27 Feb 84 p 8

[Excerpts] Karachi, 26 Feb--The team investigating the death of three land customs officials in an ambush near Panjgur on 12 February, found evidence that the assassins used the best assault rifles, and fired over 350 rounds.

The investigating team headed by the deputy commissioner, Panjgur, found 348 empty rounds of Kalashnikovs, two live cartridges, seven empties from a 303 bore rifle, and one live cartridge from the spot where the land customs party had been ambushed.

The land customs party that was ambushed consisted of eight sepoy and was headed by the late Syed Wahid Hussian Jafri. Four of the sepoy were posted at one place, three at another place and the deceased had taken a round of the area around the site of the incident.

Mr Jafri had taken Sepoy Mohammad Noor in his jeep along with driver Mohammed Hussain to a spot the smugglers were expected to pass through.

The party was surprised to find the gang, consisting of an unspecified number of smugglers, taking positions on hill tops. As soon as the party appeared on the scene unidentified gunman had opened indiscriminate fire, killing all of them instantly.

The smugglers had fled the scene of the crime, leave behind the bodies of their victims as well as all their belongings. They did not even stop to check on the jeep, which had caught fire as a result of bullets hitting the fuel tank.

At a later stage, the investigators found the official rifle and revolver of the customs officials. The raiding party had never had the chance to fire back at the smugglers. Preliminary investigations confirmed the earlier suggestions that the killers belonged to a gang of smugglers operating on the border regions between Iran and Pakistan.

Footprints taken by the district authorities also suggested that the gang of smugglers fled to Iran and had not ventured back into Pakistan.

Apparently, the late Inspector Jafri had received "valuable and credible" information about the movements of the smugglers through deceased sepoy Mohammad

Noor, and neither of the deceased had passed the information even to their colleagues in the raiding party--thus leaving behind a mystery to be solved by the investigators.

This secrecy unwittingly kept the person who passed on the information to sepoy Mohammad Noor unidentified.

According to eye-witnesses examined by the central excise and land customs department, a person on a motorcycle was seen on the spot where the incident took place. It is possible that he may have been the informer, and investigators have not ruled out the possibility that he could have been a 'planted' gang of smugglers.

Later on, a motorcycle was also seen laden on a vehicle going to Iran--at the spot where the smugglers were suspected to have crossed the Pakistani border near Girawak.

The investigators kept open the option that the informer may have been genuine, but his disappearance from the scene strengthened the theory that he was a plant otherwise he could have been expected to contact the customs officials and the investigations in tracking down the real culprits.

At the scene of the crime, all the smugglers' vehicles were found parked behind the hilltop. The element of surprise was that the smugglers took positions on hilltops instead of moving towards their final destination, which implies that they had either spotted the customs party, or had received prior information about their plans.

The collector of central excise and land customs, Syed Muzaffar Ahmed Zia, told DAWN that investigators are still in progress, and the government was in touch with Iranian authorities in this connection. With the assistance of the Iranian authorities in this connection. With the assistance of the Iranian authorities, we hoped, the smugglers would soon be apprehended.

Following the 1979 revolution in Iran, there was a spillover of Iranian outlaws into Pakistan, and some people in Pakistani Baluchistan were found coordinating smuggling operations between the two countries.

Since the terrain in Baluchistan is very difficult, investigations were not moving fast, Syed Zia added. And the Iranian authorities were facing the same problems. He said that the provincial administration, particularly the district authorities, were chiefly involved in carrying out investigations.

CSO: 4600/409

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